

FROM WHEREVER YOU ARE

Written by

LISA K. CROSATO

Lisa K. Crosato (c) 2024
Email: lcrosato@hotmail.com

EXT. Trendy LA Café - DAY.

Kate (40s, mysterious) sits at an outdoor table sipping a brewed coffee wearing dark glasses with Will (30s, hyper and flamboyant) as people occasionally glance in their direction. Kate's phone rests close to her coffee.

WILL

So, you'll do the podcast?

KATE

Really Will?

WILL

You're fussy Kate. There's a few things I'm working on. I'll let you know..

KATE

That's what every manager says when there's nothing in the works. It's the 4th and I had to dodge my landlord today.

A text pops up on Kate's phone as Will and Kate simultaneously see an image of a silver haired distinguished man and the name BRUCE (70s, movie star aura.) Kate pulls off her sunglasses picks up the phone and reads it as her hands shake.

WILL

Read it for God's sake!

Kate puts on her readers and reads the text aloud.

KATE

Take the car FROM WHEREVER YOU ARE. You won't be driven too far. Your presence is required and the view will be inspired.

She looks past Will at the street and spots a town car. Will turns to look knowingly.

WILL

This is so exciting! I thought this craziness ended years ago.

KATE

So did I. I can't get in that car and I won't get in that car.

WILL

He's divorced now. I read he has a major film in development.

KATE

I stopped reading the trades.

She looks nervously at the text again.

WILL

The film he did with you and Emma was the beginning of his fortune. He knows it and he knows you didn't get paid properly on that.

KATE

That's why you've had me signed up for podcasts, movies of the week and shit commercials ever since Willy.

The phone dings again and it's BRUCE with a new message. Kate picks up the phone as she reads:

KATE

If you want my gold, don't let greed take hold.

WILL

It's like Alice in Wonderland and you're Alice.

KATE

I don't want his money.

WILL

Everyone wants his money.

Kate shakes her head no.

WILL

I bet he's thinking of you for this new film. Text me... "from wherever you are." Just like he said.

KATE

This is exactly what actresses should not have to put up with.

A few people are trying to listen in to the conversation as the body language between Kate and Will becomes more animated.

WILL

He's not a Harvey. He falls in love
with his leading ladies. Big deal.
This is Hollywood.

Kate looks at the car as a driver opens the door and motions to her. She straightens her hair and glances in a compact mirror as she quickly applies some lipstick.

KATE

You can tell the cops where to
start looking for my body when you
get my text.

She stands and walks her to the car. They give each other a quick look as the driver (20s, clean cut) opens the door.

DRIVER

Hello Ms. LANGFORD.

Kate nods and smiles as she gets in the backseat of the town car.

INT. TOWN CAR. LA - EARLY DAY.

Kate glances at her phone. Nothing. She watches the driver as he looks at her in the car mirror. He holds his cell phone briefly to his head.

DRIVER

(quietly)
She's in the car now sir.

KATE

You do realize I can hear that.

He hangs up the phone.

INT. LONDON DRYCLEANERS - AFTERNOON.

A harried looking shopkeeper, MARION (60s, nosey) hands EMMA (40s, attractive) freshly pressed blouses in a dry cleaning bag. A ding is heard from the depths of Emma's purse. Emma rummages through her bag as she sets the dry cleaning on the counter and pulls out her phone. She reads the text as her breathing becomes more pronounced and Marion eyes the phone.

MARION

Take the car from wherever you are?
Your fan club?

Emma hands her back the dry cleaning and walks towards the door.

EMMA

I'll pick this up next week. Thanks
Marion.

Emma walks towards the door briskly as Marion strains to be heard from behind the rows of dry cleaning.

MARION

New boyfriend? A stalker?

Emma is gone.

MARION (CONT'D)

(muttering under her breath)
Wish I had that kind of action...

I/E. TOWN CAR - TRAVELING - DAY.

The car glides along the iconic streets of LA revealing palm trees, the Hollywood sign, Sunset Blvd and finally onto Mulholland Drive.

DRIVER

What was the name of your British
co-star in that film you did with
Mr. Geller? Ella? Emma?

KATE

You can google that if you want the
details.

DRIVER

Sorry ma'am.

KATE

No, I'm sorry that was rude of me.

The driver is now googling as he drives. The car pulls up to a light as he's scrolling and spots Emma's credits.

KATE (CONT'D)

I didn't mean while you're driving.

The car slowly pulls into a clearing which opens up to a beautiful vista overlooking the entire metropolis of Los Angeles.

KATE (CONT'D)

Why are we stopping here?

EXT. CAR. LA VISTA VIEW - DAY.

Before the driver can answer, the car door is opened and a man who looks like Will Smith in "Men in Black" Henri(30s handsome)is motioning for Kate to step out.

Kate steps out and straightens her clothes. Henri extends his hand and she shakes it.

KATE

Is Bruce going to be here today? I know he likes dramatic entrances. I forgot to ask your name?

HENRI

Henri. I'm from Monaco but you can call me Henry. Bruce will be joining us remotely.

KATE

Nice to meet you. What do you mean remotely?

Two more men dressed in black suits appear a few feet away. They stand close to a table covered with a white table cloth and a fancy looking chair. As Kate is being walked toward the table, we now see a laptop perched on top of it with a singular rose on one side of the computer and an empty champagne glass on the other.

KATE (CONT'D)

I'm really not prepared for this.

One of the other "men in black" walks up and pulls the chair out for her to sit.

EXT. CAR. LONDON STREETS - LATE AFTERNOON.

A black town car glides along the iconic streets of London until it pulls into a glorious clearing on top of a heath which reveals a stunning view of the city. Emma exits the car and is walked by a "man in black" type in a similar fashion as Kate was, to a table set with a white table cloth, open laptop, rose in a vase and an empty champagne glass. Her chair is pulled back for her to sit.

EMMA

I hope I'm not being punked. If we're about to film something, I'll need proper hair and makeup.

A British "Man in black" Oliver (30s, quirky looking) stands with a white towel over his arm and holds a bottle of Veuve Clicquot 1841 in white gloves. Emma stares at the label in disbelief.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Is this the shipwrecked?

OLIVER

Indeed. One of the best bottles in the world.

EMMA

I've only tasted it once but never been able to forget it.

OLIVER

Mr. Geller special ordered it for you.

EXT. LOS ANGELES VISTA - DAY.

Kate is now being presented with her champagne. She stares wide eyed at a very rare pink bottle of Rosé Dom Pérignon by David Lynch. Henri begins to pour it slowly for her.

KATE

Is that the Dom created by...

HENRI

Director David Lynch.

KATE

That's the bottle we had when Bruce's movie surpassed all box office records. It's...

HENRI

Delicate and effervescent like you.

Off Kate's look...

EXT. LONDON HEATH - DUSK.

Oliver turns on the computer and a haggard looking Bruce Geller appears from the screen. Oliver walks away.

BRUCE (ON SCREEN)

Looking lovely as usual Emma. Stardom suits you I see.

EMMA

What's going on?

Oliver has returned to Emma's side and hands her a document and a pen. At precisely the same moment, Emma gets a ding on her phone and she glances down to read it.

BRUCE (ON SCREEN)

That should be your agent. She approved the deal with me last night for this picture. We'll be shooting in Los Angeles and London.

EMMA

She's telling me to sign it. Normally I don't sign contracts in the middle of a meadow sipping champagne by myself.

BRUCE (ON SCREEN)

She should be texting about your salary any minute and she'll...

A ping comes in again. Emma starts to shake as she looks again with her glasses on and takes a big sip of her champagne. She signs the document quickly as Bruce smiles.

BRUCE (ON SCREEN) (CONT'D)

Thought that would make you happy.

EXT. LOS ANGELES - VISTA - DAY.

Oliver hands Kate her contract with a pen at the same time she gets a text message. She looks from the contract to her phone.

TEXT FROM WILL

Sign it immediately or I will kill you!

She scans the document until she sees "compensation" and starts counting the zeros after the number 4. She signs the contract and chugs the remainder of the champagne in her glass and lets out a victory scream.

KATE

Yes! Thank you God! Of course I'll have to thank Will but also my family,...

In that moment Bruce appears on the screen as well as Emma. Bruce interrupts a now rambling Kate.

BRUCE (ON SCREEN)
Congratulations ladies. You are the
stars of the next Bruce Geller
studio film.

EXT. LONDON HEATH - DUSK.

Emma straightens her glasses as she peers closer into the
Zoom meeting screen.

EMMA
Oh no! I'm not working with her!

She gets up and walks briskly away from the screen. Oliver
grabs the computer and runs after her.

EMMA (CONT'D)
You think you can toy with whomever
you want don't you? You need help!

EXT. LOS ANGELES VISTA - DAY.

Kate laughs and leans back in her chair.

KATE
And the best actress award goes
to... Emma Edwards! I'll work with
anyone you want me to Bruce but
she's the drama queen in this crazy
triangle from hell!

EXT. LONDON HEATH - DUSK.

Emma stands in defiance as she faces the computer with her
hands on her hips.

EMMA
You've got a lot of fucking nerve
after what you put me through Kate!

BRUCE FROM THE SCREEN
Sit down Emma-you've signed a 4
million dollar contract and you're
obligated to work with whomever
else I want to cast in this goddam
picture. Read the fine print.

Oliver leans in to show Emma the details of the document as
he jostles the computer. Emma reluctantly and slowly sits
down. Oliver places the computer back on the table.

EMMA

She's the conniver Bruce. She ruined everything between us. You realize that don't you? You just couldn't stay away from her and all her whimsical wants and needs.

EXT. LOS ANGELES VISTA - DAY.

Kate shakes her head and laughs.

KATE

Are you implying that we were involved with each other?

EMMA (ON SCREEN)

Everyone on that movie knew it. You humiliated me! I'll never forgive either of you.

KATE

You're the one with Daddy issues- not me. I was working with someone who mentored me on a movie that changed my entire life. It changed all of our lives. There was nothing romantic between us. It was all in your paranoid mind Emma! I don't need this shit.

Kate pushes the computer screen away, grabs her bag and gets up. Henri runs after her with the computer.

HENRI

Tranquil Kate. How about a little more champagne?

KATE

He must pay you well Henry.

Henri pleads with her to sit down.

HENRI

S'il vous plait. I'm just here to make everyone happy.

Kate grabs the champagne and dumps the remains on the ground manically.

KATE

Take this computer and take your phony champagne and shove it!

She throws the bottle and it shatters on some nearby rocks. Henri promptly appears with a new bottle and a new glass.

BRUCE (ON SCREEN)
Kate, sit down! Stop acting like a spoiled child! You're also under a 4 million dollar contract to work with Emma. Do you both understand or shall we all meet in court?

EXT. LONDON HEATH - DUSK.

Emma fishes for a cigarette from her bag and as she pulls it out of the package, Oliver appears with his lighter at the ready. Emma takes a drag and focuses on the screen.

EMMA
I'll fulfill my contract and play this role for you but I need to know if she's telling the truth Bruce, because I need closure.

BRUCE (ON SCREEN)
You abandoned me emotionally during that movie and Kate was there for me as my actress and as my friend.

Emma looks away from the screen.

KATE (ON SCREEN)
I'm truly sorry Emma. He did give me a lot of closeups and my part got bigger during the shoot.

EMMA (ON SCREEN)
It most certainly did!

KATE (ON SCREEN)
I can see why you might have thought that we were... shagging? Isn't that what you Brits call it?

EMMA
And you did dress a little trampy back then as well.

KATE FROM THE SCREEN
True...

BRUCE (ON SCREEN)
You both mean a lot to me as I'm sure you realize.
(MORE)

BRUCE (ON SCREEN) (CONT'D)

I'm asking you girls to let these petty jealousies go. So much water is under the bridge and bringing you two together again has been my sole mission for the last several years. You were best of friends before we all worked together and I never wanted to come between your friendship. It's time to fix this mess between all of us.

An awkward silence falls as the three stare at each other through the screen.

EMMA

I guess we should let it all go.

Oliver walks up to Emma and pours her more champagne.

EXT. LOS ANGELES VISTA - DAY.

Henri pours more champagne for Kate.

BRUCE (ON SCREEN)

I've been dreaming of this day for a long time.

Bruce raises a champagne glass from the screen.

BRUCE (ON SCREEN) (CONT'D)

I want to propose a toast to letting bygones be bygones and to old friends.

The women raise their glasses in unison.

KATE

Here's to the nights we'll never remember and the friends we'll never forget.

EMMA (ON SCREEN)

I do miss our friendship. Cheers!

BRUCE (ON SCREEN)

There's another document that I'll need you each to sign.

Henri hands Kate a document which intercuts with Oliver handing Emma hers. Both women put on their glasses to read it.

BRUCE (ON SCREEN) (CONT'D)
 This a testament to my will. You are to be co-executors of my entire estate and holdings. This is a considerable fortune. There is also property in Monaco which Henri will help with. Emma, you will need to fly to Los Angeles to help Kate put things in order since my house is in California. You will need to work together. Do you understand?

EXT. LOS ANGELES VISTA - DAY.

Henri walks up to Kate and drapes his coat over her shoulders as the sun has now dropped.

KATE
 Why are you telling us this here Bruce? What's really going on?

BRUCE (ON SCREEN)
 It's getting late and it's dark now in London. Emma, Oliver will make sure you get home safely. Kate, Henri will take you back to your house.

BRUCE (CONT'D)
 I've always loved you Emma. I always will love you. Nothing can change that.

EXT. LONDON HEATH - NIGHT

Oliver has set up a light by the computer. Emma is now sobbing.

EMMA
 I have never stopped loving you.

BRUCE (ON SCREEN)
 Kate, your friendship and love has meant the world to me. I'm better for knowing you. You are truly unforgettable.

Bruce's arm leaves the screen as he reaches for something.

BRUCE (ON SCREEN) (CONT'D)
 Cancer has a way of putting all priorities into perspective.

From the computer screen a gun enters frame and Bruce holds it up to his head. The screen goes to black. The audio is still on and explodes with the gunshot. Emma jumps up from her seat and screams.

EXT. LOS ANGELES VISTA - DUSK.

Kate lets out a wail as tears stream down her face. Henri puts his arms around her to try to calm her.

EXT. LONDON HEATH - NIGHT.

Oliver walks slowly towards Emma who stares into the darkness.

FADE OUT.

(CONT'D)

(CONT'D)

(CONT'D)

(CONT'D)

(CONT'D)