

THE ELECTRON JUNGLE

“A Blue Moment”

By

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FADE IN:

1

INT. A LOUNGE—NIGHT

A Man, TIE, is meandering around the lounge with a friend and spots a woman, ANGELIQUE, sitting alone at the bar over her drink. Curious over her subdued demeanor, he excuses himself, moves her way, boldly sits beside her and orders a drink.

TIE

Hey beautiful.

(re: her stare)

Sorry. It's an icebreaker. Pro or con,
works every time.

ANGELIQUE

(misty eyed)

Boring is death.

She sips her drink, distantly focuses on her mirror image.

TIE

Okay, so heartbreak's all over this song.
Need a shoulder, sometimes a rude
stranger's the perfect fit. No danger,
it's going nowhere.

ANGELIQUE

That's true. And I doubt it.

TIE

Two answers, one question. Out of my league
already, but tell me your story, I'll pretend
to understand.

She contemplates a little and turns toward him.

ANGELIQUE

Okay. Sob story. He's my best friend.
Being you, you wouldn't know what that
means—no offence—but we're no longer
best Friends. Or anything. I...cheated on
him.

TIE

2

Being 'you', how...does...one cheat on their best friend?

ANGELIQUE

I broke up with my fiancé and he found out I had a blue moment with someone new and it wasn't him.

TIE

Are you and him—

ANGELIQUE

No, we're only friends.

TIE

Oooh... he's in love with you.

She sips her drink and nods.

ANGELIQUE

I knew it'd end this way. Won't even talk to me now. I've never been so heartbroken. It's bizarre, it didn't bother him so much being with my fiancé, but someone new... he went off the deep end.

(beat)

I considered giving him my body once in awhile to keep him, but decided against it.

TIE

Uh...huh. Well, here's a piece of news in case you didn't analyze it thoroughly. That's just the way it is. Nothing you can do about it in case you haven't looked in the mirror lately.

(waves his hand over her from head to toe)

No offence, I'd never hire you in my company. Don't take it wrong, you'd be a detriment to my business.

(re: her stare)

You can never be just a friend to a guy. Any guy says they can, they're conning you.

She stares him down a long moment.

3

ANGELIQUE

That...is...the exact reason I got released
from my last employer.

TIE

See? Bad for morale. The male ego, can't
get what it wants... whew.

ANGELIQUE

(beat)

My female boss.

TIED

Worse. Catty.

She nods, sips her drink and slides an eye toward his waiting eyes.

ANGELIQUE

Being you... anything I can do?

TIE

(shrugs)

Start your own company. Pay it backward,
blacken a few eyes. It's the way the world
works.

Curious at his response, she lowers her glass and gently places it on the bar.

TIE

Look at the bright side. You can have
anything else you want.

(beat)

Anything.

ANGELIQUE

You have a crystal ball I suppose?

TIE

I know everything. Having anything you want
can be a larger headache. I'm certain you deal
with it well, however.

(Re:her stare)

TIE

4

Giving someone the hook. Without meaning to.

He waves his hand over her form again, she relaxes back, studies him a long moment and he awaits her response. They both shift their eyes to the Bartender flicking through the stereo.

TIE

What's that like, anyway? Out of curiosity. I have to buy everything, being droll and ordinary. My last wife, no chance until I bought a Mercedes and hit the jackpot.

ANGELIQUE

Beats bubblegum.

Reading each others dichotomy, they chuckle a little, studious. She looks at her watch and stands.

ANGELIQUE

Hey, thanks for the shoulder. Don't worry, I'll never talk to you again.

TIE

Thank you. Give my best to your new blue moment, if he's still en vogue. Need a best Buddy stand-in, let me know. It's the best I can do.

She hugs him, slings purse over shoulder and exits. One of Tie's buddies returns and sits beside him.

BUDDY

Snub?

TIE

(beat)

Incompatability. My life story.

A BARTENDER slides a couple drinks their way, smirking.

BARTENDER

On the house. It's a racetrack...

(whispers in his ear)

And you're full of it.

BUDDY

5

Running before the rejection phobia?

BARTENDER

Too sensitive. There's nothing I haven't seen working back here.

BUDDY

Ah. Beauty adds too much potency to the rejection. Anything he can do?

The Bartender tosses Tie a breath mint, Tie slides it into his mouth with an eye on his mirror image and another curvy form passing by behind him. He looks back at the mirror, flinches a little at a black eye, and—

FADE OUT