

MOST CERTAINLY A LOVE STORY

by

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OPEN ON BLACK SCREEN

NARRATOR 1, deep baritone voice. NARRATOR 2, well, you'll see.

NARRATOR 1
Our raconteur states his monologue
as the first few scenes unfold.

NARRATOR 2
Raconteur. Very fancy Bob.

NARRATOR 1
No names.

NARRATOR 2
Oh. I'm sorry.

NARRATOR 1
This peculiar voice narrates with
such high octane personality, heart
bubbles form in the screen whenever
he talks.

NARRATOR 2
Oh, that's nice. I like that.

NARRATOR 1
But not literally though.

NARRATOR 2
That's a bummer.

NARRATOR 1
Like a celebrity talk show host, he
captures audience attention despite
not being seen at all.

NARRATOR 2
I like your description, Bob.

NARRATOR 1
I said no name calling, Jim.
(pauses)
And he's gay.

NARRATOR 2
Oh, why did you have to add that.
Does it matter though?

NARRATOR 1
Silence as screen opens to--

A partially filled train HUMS as it glides through the city of Los Angeles. Buildings and electrical post pass by the busy window. Some passengers are seated while others stand close to the doorway.

NARRATOR 2

I just flipped my head right now
but you guys didn't see that. It's
ok though. Ready--
Our lives revolve around many
things. Family
(in exasperated tone)
Of course.
Then you have friends. Everybody
has a friend or two.
And if you have facebook, or IG, or
tweeter, or snap then you have
plenty of them.
Last time I checked, I got five
hundred thousand. Yes 500 K.
And I know all of them.
(ruminates)
Let's see. What else? Well my life
revolve around one tiny little
thing but I'll tell you about it
later. I'm in love with it. But
enough about me. This story is
about him.

CU on ROB 20, Filipino-American.

NARRATOR 2 (CONT'D)

There is also a her. But, I'm not
sure if this is a love story.

Rob sits quietly between a huge tote bag and an old woman.
He's wearing a plain white shirt, blue jeans, and he's
leaning behind a black backpack. His head resting on the
train window, eyes closed, ignoring everything around him.

Underneath his vans shoe is a colorful skateboard. He swings
that gently to the rhythm of his bobbing head while listening
to music that we can't hear.

The train slows down and an announcement is heard through the
intercom.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Approaching platform, Vermont
station.

Rob opens his eyes, pulls the earphones out of his ears, and
leaves it hanging out of his bag. He grabs his skateboard
underneath his feet and rushes for the door.

The moment he left, the old woman next to him picks up the tote bag and puts it on her lap.

Just then, we notice a cellphone right where the bag used to sit. Neither Rob nor the old woman notice though.

NARRATOR 2

Ohh. What's that?

Rob stops by the doorway, holding on to a side railing. The train eventually stops then WHOOSH, the door slides open.

NARRATOR 2 (CONT'D)

From the looks of this situation,
someone is about to lose their
cool.

EXT. VERMONT STATION PLATFORM - DAY

Rob steps out of the train, drops his skateboard to the ground and rides it like a pro. He is about to put his headphones back to his ear and be whisked away by his helpful ride, when he hears a man call out.

MAN (V.O.)

Hey yo! Your phone.

Rob stops and looks back at the train and it's closing door. He sees a man waving at him then pointing to a spot close by.

Rob's attention moves towards the direction the man is pointing at, and as the train slowly rolls away, he sees the old woman waving a cellphone at him.

Shocked, he panics and chases after the running train but of course he is just a tad bit jumpy too late.

NARRATOR 2

That's just awful.

NARRATOR 1

Don't say lines you're not supposed
to.

NARRATOR 2

Right.

The old woman points at his phone and then points at somewhere indeterminate. As the train continues to move, he reads her lips and the word STATION forms in her mouth. He nods awkwardly then stops abruptly just before the platform ends.

Standing at the edge and looking beat, he picks up his skateboard and starts pounding it with controlled light hits to the cold and hard cement floor.

NARRATOR 2 (CONT'D)

Like I said. Someone just lost their cool.

NARRATOR 1

Grunts.

Finished with his sudden outburst of dismay, Rob turns his attention to the on-coming railway, no train yet.

Skateboard on hand, he drags his heavy feet away from the edge of the platform and closer to where the train doors open. He stands there and waits.

NARRATOR 2

You see. We all lose our, what's the other word for shit? How 'bout chill?
Yeah, so, we all lose our chill when we lose the things that matter the most.
Because it means we won't be able to update our friends on our status.
Like, Rob. For all we know. At this very moment he feels like sending a sad emoji to the world.

Sad emoji displays on screen, covering Rob's face.

Followed by an angry emoji.

Then a vomiting emoji.

Lastly, a screaming one, just when Rob raises both arms in frustration.

NARRATOR 2 (CONT'D)

Or that.

EXT. VERMONT STATION PLATFORM - MOMENTS LATER

NARRATOR 2

Fast forward.

The scene literally fast forwards until the platform is partly filled with waiting passengers.

Rob impatiently walks back and forth in front of the yellow door line, acting like a kid in tantrum.

Some people stare at him while others simply ignore him. Most of them fixated on their respective cellphones.

The next train arrives, and everyone waits for the passengers to alight.

INT. TRAIN - DAY

Rob is the first to walk in, almost shoving others as he moves forward. He stops just by the door, holds on to the railing, and simply ignores people looking at him the wrong way.

He stands there with his obvious irate mood, almost squeezing the metal pole with his bare hands.

Just then, a girl of Rob's age, ARLENE, 20, Hispanic, rushes towards the trains closing door. She looks pretty in a white tank top, baggy jeans and the same vans shoes as Rob's.

ARLENE

Hold please!

Rob jams his skateboard forward. The door partly closes just as it hits the skateboard, then opens again. Their eyes meet for a beat.

ARLENE (CONT'D)

Thanks.

He acknowledges her with a nod.

NARRATOR 2

Remember what I said earlier about a girl? Well.

Arlene stands opposite Rob.

And just like Rob, Arlene seems to be irritated as well.

Tapping her fingers on the metal pole and tapping her foot to match.

Rob notices but doesn't say anything and simply eyes her with short quick glances.

NARRATOR 2 (CONT'D)

Isn't this interesting. Two souls
missing the very same thing
(MORE)

NARRATOR 2 (CONT'D)
that connects almost every human on
earth. But they don't know this
yet.

Awkward silence grows within the air that divides Rob and
Arlene. They exchange quick glances but never really meet eye
to eye.

Until, that one special moment befalls the two and they're
eyes meet. This simply makes them smile.

NARRATOR 2 (CONT'D)
Well that's cute. If they only had
that one thing that binds us all
then this situation would look more
like this.

Caption appears on top of Arlene and Rob's head.

On Arlene are emojis of hearts rising to the heavens while
Rob's is that of a huge smiling head emoticon, followed by a
pounding heart, then a dancing man.

Moments later, the train arrives at Union station.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Approaching platform, Union
station.

Rob notices Arlene's hastiness to alight, her feet moving up
and down as if she is walking already. Soon as the door
opens, Rob makes way for her.

ARLENE
Thanks.

ROB
Your welcome.

EXT. UNION STATION PLATFORM - DAY

Instead of using his skateboard, Rob tries hard to walk
alongside Arlene but far enough for her not to notice.

She notices anyway and tries hard to keep a straight face.

NARRATOR 2
Again, if only they had that one
important thing with them, then
they can do this.

Caption appears again on top of Arlene and Rob's head.

On Arlene's is a joined hand that opens with hearts bursting from it.

While Rob has a GIF of an awkward boy circling his feet in front of a cute girl.

NARRATOR 2 (CONT'D)

Aww.

They continue to walk, close but still far enough and in silence.

EXT. UNION STATION - CONTINUOUS

Both are still walking, taking quick glances at each other as they approach the stations information desk.

The crowd disappears around them and the distance closes between them as they slowly reach their destination.

ROB

You following me?

ARLENE

Are you headed to the information desk?

ROB

Maybe.

ARLENE

Well then maybe I am.

Two emojis flash on top of their faces. A wide eyed, smiling emoji that is.

NARRATOR 2

Well look at that. Maybe they don't need that precious little thing after all. I guess we'll see.

A short moment of silence falls between them as they approach the costumer service window.

EXT. UNION STATION, INFORMATION DESK - DAY

Arlene's eyes focus on Rob's skateboard.

ARLENE

Cool stickers.

Rob slightly lifts his skateboard up and from that angle he noticed his earphones, still hanging loose from his bag.

Rob's eyes open in shock, as if they are about to pop out of the sockets.

Rob stops abruptly. Arlene notices and turns her head towards him but she remains determined to reach the information desk.

Rob drops his skateboard quickly to the ground then holds his earphones gently with his free hand.

In a rush, he releases the bag from his shoulders and quickly unzips it.

From our POV. We see Arlene talking to the Union Station attendant.

Back to Rob whose finally got his bag open. Eyes staring at something inside, something we can't see yet.

While this happens, the Union Station attendant is handing Arlene something square and black.

Then, CU on Rob's bag. Sitting quietly inside is --

His beautiful and pristine cellphone, untouched and undamaged. He picks it up and stares at it in wonder.

Just when he has the thing close to his face, we see Arlene standing in front of him.

ARLENE (CONT'D)

You ok?

Rob, shocked, tries to play it cool but his voice squeaks.

ROB

I'm fine.

This makes Arlene giggle.

Robe clears his throat.

ROB (CONT'D)

I'm fine.

The moment he looks down. We finally see what has been handed to Arlene. She lifts it up, a cellphone.

ARLENE

Left it behind. Silly me.

(pauses)

(MORE)

ARLENE (CONT'D)

Wait. Didn't you need anything from
the information desk?

Rob is now obviously staring at Arlene's phone. She looks at
it too.

ARLENE (CONT'D)

Is there something wrong?

ROB

What? No. No I don't need anything.
I'm Ok right now. I'm fine.

ARLENE

Ok. Well then, I'll see you around.

ROB

Yeah definitely. See you.

They make an awkward slow step forward. Away from each other.

ROB (CONT'D)

I'm headed this way.

Rob points towards the platform they just got out from. This
makes Arlene wonder, her brows moving up but she doesn't
voice out her concern. She simply nods.

ARLENE

Ok. Take care.

Rob extends his hands and gives a quick wave.

While the distance grow between the two.

NARRATOR 2

Why is it that it's so much easier
to do things and say things when we
have
(exasperated tone)
that little thing doing it for us.

Screen splits in two.

NARRATOR 1

That's a shame.

Arlene walking away from the platform.

NARRATOR 2

Hey. My narration today, remember?
You're only doing intro.

Rob standing by the yellow line, waiting for the next train.

NARRATOR 1

Right.
(exhales loud)
You do it to me.

NARRATOR 2

Stop it. Disappear, now.

EXT. UNION STATION, PLATFORM - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Standing awkwardly on opposite sides of the platform.

NARRATOR 2

Why did the screen change. It's not
suppose to when we're talking
right?

Rob and Arlene, are still taking quick glances at each other.

NARRATOR 1

They can do whatever they want.
You're just a voice.

NARRATOR 2

You're just a voice. I have
character.

Both doodling with their respective cellphones while they do
so.

NARRATOR 1

A mere vehicle to tell an already
moving story for--

NARRATOR 2

Mere vehicle? Excuse me. I am the
reason why this is moving as
interesting as it would have, had I
not been --

There is only one older man standing in the platform with
Arlene. He is on his phone, minding his own thing but he does
notice the two taking glances at each other. He merely rolls
his eyes.

NARRATOR 2 (CONT'D)

Oh, did you see what that old man
just did?

NARRATOR 1

The audacity.

NARRATOR 2
I know. He is just an extra.

An emoji with hearts comes flashing out of Arlene and Robs eyes -- while they are looking at their phones.

NARRATOR 1
Did you see that?

NARRATOR 2
Well that's just awful.

Arlene giggles as she stares at her phone. Rob smiles while he stares at his.

NARRATOR 2 (CONT'D)
Oh, I look at mine the same way.
Maybe it is a love story after all.

Then Arlene lifts her head --

NARRATOR 2 (CONT'D)
Oh wait for it.

NARRATOR 1
Are you still reading you're lines.

The train on Arlene's side slowly approaches.

NARRATOR 2
It doesn't matter at this point.
you said mere vehicle for --

ARLENE
(to Rob)
Hey didn't you just exit from there
earlier?

Rob looks at her then the in coming train.

Then back to Arlene.

NARRATOR 2
She's right.
Oh no.

Then back to the incoming train.

Then he looks at a hanging sign right above the platform --

UNION STATION

And just like that, he runs away from the platform.

NARRATOR 2 (CONT'D)
Where is he going?

NARRATOR 1
Where do you think?

Narrator 2 pauses, inhales, then screams in excitement with a shrill voice, the screen suddenly turns to black.

NARRATOR 1 (CONT'D)
Great.

EXT. UNION STATION / INT. TRAIN - DAY - CONTINUOUS

A cellphone is jammed between the closing doors of a train. The hand holding it is that of a girls.

The door re-opens and standing right in front of it is --

Rob, smiling from ear to ear.

He enters the train and just then we focus on Arlene, smiling from ear to ear as well.

NARRATOR 2
It's probably a love story.

The old man previously standing on the platform with Arlene lifts his head only to eye Rob and Arlene standing in front of him. He gives a gentle smile.

NARRATOR 1
He thinks so.

THE END.

