

RAINBOW UNICORN

by

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OPEN ON DARK SCREEN. ROOM SLOWLY CLEARS TO --

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

A dim bedroom. Light peeks through the slits of the window blinds. We see a body move in the bed, then a duvet flies to one corner of said bed.

A body sits up, it struggles hard, finally in the edge, it pauses. It's a teenage boy. We can't see his face yet.

He stares at a picture frame in front of him. It's a girl. Her features unclear from the darkness.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

The teenager turns the lights on then runs the faucet. He washes his face.

The moment he lifts his head, we finally take a good look at, HENRY JAMES SHELLEY, 17, handsome, of mix race, half Asian, half White. He's wearing loose boxers and a white T-shirt.

Henry presses a zit on his jaw while we watch in agony. A white pus like thing comes out of the zit. Clearly, eww.

He cleans that with his finger.

He stares at his face, we see his nose move, then a weird assortment of sound fills the air. SNORT, DRAG, SHOT, COUGH. It doesn't sound like it's about to end anytime soon. Finally a BLOW.

A thick massive clear mucus comes out of his nose. It hangs loose from his nostrils. He cleans that with his bare hands, then washes his face with water.

He grabs a brush and toothpaste from the medicine cabinet. He brushes his teeth, then his tongue, pushing the brush all the way in. We hear GAGGING. We retreat.

INT. LIVING ROOM/INT. KITCHEN - DAY

POV from doorway. ALICE SHELLEY, 45, Filipina, preps food for her family. Her accent still noticeable.

ALICE

Henry! Come on down! You're Dad
will be back soon!

We hear RUNNING down the stairs. Alice turns to the sound.

Henry with his white shirt on, blue jeans, and green chucks careens towards the door.

Alice in shock, follows her son's movement.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Henry? Where do you think you're going?

EXT. SHELLEY HOME/INT. DOORWAY - DAY

A beautiful California front lawn. Four big cactus stands at random distance from each other. The front door opens. Henry appears in the middle of the doorway.

He looks majestic. He looks ahead, to somewhere indeterminate.

He appears to be on a mission.

ALICE (O.S.)
Henry come back here!

In a hurry, he dons his black bag.

HENRY
I told you Mom, it's James.

Drops the skateboard on the ground.

ALICE (O.S.)
Punyeta! Henry!!?

Dons his helmet.

HENRY
James, Ma!

Shuts the door behind him. He skates off to an unknown destination.

EXT. LOVE STREET/EXT. SHELLEY HOME - DAY

James, in a rush, pushes his skateboard as fast as he can. The image of their house looms in the background.

The front door opens then Alice appears.

ALICE
What the fuck Henry? I'm telling your Dad!

He ignores his mother.

A blue sedan approaches, the man inside stares at James. He is White, CHARLES SHELLEY, 45, looks at his son straight in the eye. James doesn't budge.

JAMES

Sup, Dad!

Charles opens his mouth but we skip him.

EXT. LOVE STREET - DAY

James skates down Love Street. A few cars pass him. He crosses but keeps his head straight ignoring everything else around him.

As expected, a car almost hits him. BEEP! The driver of which rolls down his window.

DRIVER

What the fuck's wrong with you!?

James turns to the mad driver while the skateboard moves forward.

JAMES

I'm so sorry.

James doesn't notice an incoming post, when... BAM!

CU on driver shaking his head then driving away.

James gets up. Brushes the dirt from his shirt and jeans.

EXT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE - DAY

A GRANDMA, 80, Hispanic, stands in the lawn of a house right in front of the post James fell at. She's watering a cactus with a closed flower bud.

Grandma has the look of knowledge and experience drawn on her face and she screams it out loud.

GRANDMA

Love doesn't wait!

James still brushing the dirt from his clothes looks at Grandma.

JAMES

You tell 'em Grandma!

James picks up his upside down skateboard, drops it back to the ground.

GRANDMA

We must take charge to get it!

James nods at her statement then he skates away without turning around.

He leaves us by the post watching Grandma water the cactus.

EXT. LOVE STREET - DAY - CONTINUOUS

James fixes his helmet. His eyes look serious.

He passes another street. This time, he makes it to the other side unscathed.

He makes a turn into Passion Street.

Turning on the same road is a 1956 Chevy with an old couple sitting in the front.

EXT. PASSION STREET - DAY

James continuous to skate. The 1956 Chevy drives down the same road along side him.

James checks his watch. He hurries.

Up ahead is a decent sized yellow billboard for Bubble's Restaurant.

EXT./INT. BUBBLE'S RESTAURANT - DAY

In front of us is a yellow painted restaurant. The stencils in the window and the paint color combination gives it a retro-50's feel.

James stands frozen in the parkway, staring at something or someone inside the restaurant.

CU inside: we see a beautiful mulatta. She stands 5'5", beautiful brown skin, silver piercing on her nose, white tank top.

She serves coffee to her costumers, smiling as she pours the dark liquid into their cups.

Her eyes sparkles as the sun hits the table and radiates light unto her face. She laughs.

We hear a THUD, that of a car door closing.

We turn to the sound. It's the Chevy. An OLD MAN, 80, makes his way to the other side of the car.

OLD MAN
(talking to self)
Hold on. Let me help you. Just wait
a minute.

MUFFLED sound comes from the OLD LADY, 80, inside the car.

The Old Man opens the passenger door.

OLD LADY
I said I can do it myself!

OLD MAN
You think you can, but I got you.

OLD LADY
You don't got me.
(asserts self)
I got me.

The Old Lady gets out of the car. She holds on to a cane, at the same time using that to shoo the old man away.

OLD MAN
You already fell last week.

OLD LADY
Oh I did not.

OLD MAN
You did too.

OLD LADY
Maybe I did. A little.

OLD MAN
You fell. Your butt hit the floor.

OLD LADY
My butt is just fine.

OLD MAN
No it's not.

OLD LADY
I slipped.
(pause)
Because you cleaned the garage
floor. I specifically said.

She pauses, holds on to the Old Man while she stands up.

OLD MAN

You ok Hon?

OLD LADY

I specifically said.

(catches her breath)

Don't clean the floor. You don't
know how to do it. But no. You went
ahead and --

The Old Man struggles to keep the Old Lady steady, but the woman still pushes him away.

OLD LADY (CONT'D)

I said I got it.

OLD MAN

That's what you always say. But you
never do.

OLD LADY

What is this restaurant you're
taking me to anyway.

OLD MAN

I heard it's good.

She stops struggling.

The Old Man pauses. He looks at the Old Lady.

She's on a stand still, staring at something in front of both of them.

The Old Man turns to check. We check too.

James, still staring at the girl inside.

The old couple turn to the restaurant.

They don't see the girl. They only see the bright stencilled name of Bubble's Restaurant in the window.

They turn to James again. In awe.

The couple turn to the restaurant one more time, then to James.

Old lady hurries towards the restaurant. Old man supports her.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)
Must be delicious.

EXT. BUBBLE'S RESTAURANT - DAY

The old couple makes their way inside the restaurant. The mulatta girl notices them and guides them inside. She also notices James standing outside, she purses her lips, she looks a bit agitated.

James waves at her. She ignores him.

INT. BUBBLE'S RESTAURANT - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

The old couple sits quietly arguing over the sugar and the creamer.

James sits in a corner table, waiting for...

ISABELLA ANGELOU (BELLA), 17. The girl is a real beauty, more so up close.

BELLA
Henry. What brings you here?

JAMES
James. It would be nice if you call me James.

BELLA
Ok. James. Coffee? Breakfast?

He looks around. An awkward silence fall between the two.

JAMES
You said last week, you'll think about it?
(fidgets with his skateboard)
Have you given it any thought?

BELLA
Henry.
(pause. She rolls her eyes but not in a sarcastic way)
James. I'm not interested with that right now. Why can't we just hang out.

JAMES
But we don't hang out. We never do.

BELLA

We'll that's because you are always with Robert and you guys have your own thing you know. We have different interest.

James nods, unsure if he gets it or not.

JAMES

So does that mean we can hang out?

BELLA

James. Can we not talk about this now? I'm at work and I have costumers waiting. She points to the old couple.

The Old Lady now impatient, stares at James with piercing eyes.

OLD LADY

Hurry up boy. Make your order.

James looks at her. She decreases the slits in her eyes more. James balks at the sight. Bella simply shakes her head.

JAMES

Right. Right. So we can hang out then?

Bella's co-worker SAM, 24 WHISTLES at her, then points at his watch.

OLD MAN

She, is his order, will you just focus on that sugar. Don't make it too sweet.

BELLA

I really have to go Henry. James.

OLD LADY

You know I like it sweet. The sweeter it is the better.

JAMES

So we can hang out right?

OLD MAN

But then you drown the taste of coffee. How are you going to appreciate the taste of good Arabica beans if you...

The Old Lady slaps the Old Man's hands from the sugar bowl while Bella grabs the old couple's plates from the counter. James eagerly following behind Bella.

BELLA (TO JAMES)
Maybe in school. Maybe?

OLD MAN
You should never mask the taste of something good by pouring sugar in it.

JAMES
Great! School. I'm fine with that.

BELLA
I said maybe.

OLD LADY
The girl said maybe. Where's my food?

BELLA
I have it here. It's right here.

Bella turns to James then points to the door with her head.

JAMES
I'm going to hold you to that.

Sam CLEARS HIS THROAT.

James takes that cue and walks out but turns around just when Bella has the old couple's plates on the table...

JAMES (CONT'D)
Hey, Bella? I really like you.

Then he walks out.

Sam hits his face with his palm. The Old Man is quick to comment.

OLD MAN
Not very smooth boy. Not very smooth.

The Old Lady gives an expression as if she has eaten something sour.

OLD LADY
Not at all.

Bella moves back to the counter where Sam is, she grabs a ketchup. Sam winks at her.

SAM
I really like you.

EXT. PASADENA CITY COLLEGE - DAY

James and his best friend ROBERT KEATS, 17, is also a mix, half Mexican, half White, hangs out in front of the English Department. Both wearing plain white shirts, except he has black jeans and blue chucks on.

Robert has a bubbly and out going personality compared to James. He also thinks he knows it all.

ROBERT
I really like you?
(he face palms)
Why would you say that. That is like your edge. You don't just give that away. Plus, she knows that already.

FLASHBACK: PRE-SCHOOL - DAY

Young James (missing a front tooth) and Young Bella sits across each other, bella drawing something on paper. Young Robert sits next to James, he is busy poking his nose.

YOUNG JAMES
(to Bella)
I really like you.

FLASHBACK: ELEMENTARY - DAY

Elementary James brisk walks to Bella in the gym, he's wearing an odd looking gym shorts. Robert keeps his distance from James while screaming the word NO multiple times.

ELEMENTARY JAMES
(to Bella)
I really like you.

FLASHBACK: HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Robert dragging James whilst covering his best friends mouth, across the prom dance floor. James attempting to scream at Bella.

HIGH SCHOOL JAMES
(to Bella, muffled sound)
I really like you.

RETURN TO SCENE:

ROBERT

You say something like that when
you know you've hooked them in.
When you know they are at the mercy
of that one good line that
guarantees them you are not only
The One, but that you maybe a poet.

JAMES

Love doesn't wait.

ROBERT

Yeah but love also depends on good
timing man! You never have good
timing.

JAMES

What did you expect me to do? I
felt it's the right time. That's
exactly what I wanted to say in
that moment.

ROBERT

In a restaurant? Serving breakfast?

STELLA SOR JUANA, 17, a gorgeous Mexican-American walks by
with a friend beside her.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Stella Sor Juana. Looking good
today.

Stella looks at him, doesn't smile.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

I'll see you...

Stella gives a wicked smile this time, then cocks an eyebrow
up.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Around. I'll see you around.
Somewhere.

Stella disappears inside the English building. There's
something going on between the two but James doesn't notice.

JAMES

Very smooth, Casanova. Is that what
you felt like saying... just now?

ROBERT
Very funny. Let's go.

Robert picks up his bag from the grass.

JAMES
Hold it.

Bella walks casually towards them.

ROBERT
Well what do you know! I guess it worked.

BELLA
Henry James Shelley. Robert Keats.

ROBERT
Isabela Angelou.

Robert eyes a speechless James. He hits his friend in the arm.

JAMES
Hey Bella. About the restaurant thing.

BELLA
One date.

JAMES
I'm sorry.

BELLA
I'll give you one date and maybe we can start there.

JAMES
Oh my God you have no...

Robert hits his friend in the stomach knocking the air out of him.

ROBERT
That's cool Bella. When and where, beauty?

Bella stares at a coughing James, then at Robert.

BELLA
Under one condition.

ROBERT
Whoo, hold it. A condition, for
just one date?

JAMES
I'll take it.

ROBERT
Wait.

JAMES
Anything.

Bella cocks her brows up at Robert.

BELLA
My sister wants to join the science
competition and she's been
struggling with her project. You
help her, I'll date you.

JAMES
When can we date? Tonight, can we
date tonight?

ROBERT
Jesus.

Bella smiles but then controls it.

BELLA
After the competition we can go
out.

ROBERT
Wait! What are the stipulations?

BELLA
Stipulations?

ROBERT
Win or lose?

BELLA
Nothing like that. Just help her
finish the project and make sure
the presentation goes well and I
guarantee you one date.

JAMES
Anything.

Robert hits James in the stomach again, this time James
catches his hand.

ROBERT
You're sister, what's her name?

BELLA
Ana.

ROBERT
Ana wins an award. We get five
dates and a kiss.

BELLA
Two dates. No kiss.

ROBERT
Three dates. Holding hands.

BELLA
Three dates. No touch.

ROBERT
Deal.

Bella smiles at the two then walks off.

JAMES
Thanks...

Robert immediately covers James's mouth.

ROBERT
(to Bella)
What's your sisters number?

BELLA
She doesn't have a phone. Just come
by at home later today.

ROBERT
(to James)
Thanks?

James smiles from ear to ear.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
You are hopeless. You hear me.
Hopeless.

EXT. BELLA'S HOME - DAY

James stands in front of Bella's door way, flowers on hand.
Robert hides in a corner bush though we can still see him.

James rings the bell. He waits anxiously.