

INT. FANCY FRENCH RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A HOSTESS escorts a beautiful woman (JAIME) with her average-looking, underdressed boyfriend (CHAD) through a dimly lit, packed restaurant.

They sit at a table for two at the front of the house.

HOSTESS
Your seats, Mademoiselle and
Monsieur.

CHAD
(badly pronounced)
Merci bow-coup.

The Hostess, offended by Chad butchering her language, leaves.

JAIME
Wow, this place is fancy, Chad.

CHAD
Only the best for you, my love.

JAIME
I'm shocked, honestly. I thought
you'd forget about today.

CHAD
Forget Valentine's Day? Impossible.

JAIME
Well, you did last year, so it's
very much possible.

A WAITER arrives.

WAITER
Bonjour and welcome to Chez
Henri's. I will be your server this
evening. Shall I tell you tonight's
specials?

JAIME
Yes, please!

CHAD
No need, my man. I already pre-
ordered the lobster for me and my
lady.

JAIME
Lobster?

CHAD

Yea! Yelp says this place has the best in town. Isn't that right, my dude.

WAITER

You are correct, my...bro...our lobster is sourced from the best farmers in the world. They are a unique and rare breed known for the extra sweetness in their tails.

JAIME

But I don't eat lobster. I'm pescatarian.

WAITER

Ah, I see.

CHAD

I don't. Pescatarian. As in - you eat fish.

JAIME

A lobster's not a fish, Chad. They're sentient beings.

Chad stares blankly, dumbly.

JAIME (CONT'D)

They have feelings Chad, unlike yourself. They can feel joy, excitement, warmth, and even pain.

CHAD

Jaime, lobsters are not sentient.

JAIME

Sentient!

CHAD

Whatever. They don't have feelings.

INT. FANCY FRENCH RESTAURANT LOBSTER TANK - SAME

The last two lobsters (CLAWDIA and SHELLY) are left in a small, dirty tank.

CLAWDIA

Valentine's Day. The worst day of the year for us lobsters.

SHELLY

Only humans find murder romantic.

They turn to each other.

CLAWDIA

Whatever happens, Shelly. Getting caught and dumped here was the best thing that ever happened to me. Otherwise, I would've never met you.

SHELLY

Me too. I'd rather spend one last day with you in this cesspool than a hundred years back home in the Atlantic.

CLAWDIA

I love you.

SHELLY

I love you.

CLAWDIA

Maybe they won't eat us?

SHELLY

Doubt it. I mean look at your tail. It's so big and juicy. I'd eat you.

CLAWDIA

Aww stop it, babe.

SHELLY

Are you blushing?

CLAWDIA

No, I'm always this red.

SHELLY

Oh right, duh.

CLAWDIA

But look, everyone in the restaurant has already ordered. It's just that one couple left and looks like they're fighting.

SHELLY

You're right they are. Oh, did she just wag her finger at him?

CLAWDIA

She sure did.

SHELLY

At this rate, they won't make it
past appetizers.

CLAWDIA

I know this sounds crazy, but I
really believe our love is strong
enough to overcome anything even
Valentine's day.

SHELLY

I do too.

INT. FANCY FRENCH RESTAURANT - LATER

The Waiter stands uncomfortably by Jaime and Chad.

JAIME

Why didn't you ask me, if I wanted
lobster, beforehand?

CHAD

I wanted it to be a surprise.
Something special.

JAIME

Considering and asking me what I
want - for a change - is something
special.

WAITER

Speaking of specials. Would you
like to hear them?

JAIME

Yes, I would love to.

WAITER

We have a delicious vegetarian
mushroom risotto with locally
sourced truffle oil, and the chef's
famous ratatouille with eggplant,
zucchini, bell peppers, and
tomatoes, that are sautéed together
in garlic and herbs.

JAIME

Oh that sounds yummy. Can I have a
few moments to decide?

WAITER

Of course. Take your time. I'll be right back with your wine, Mademoiselle... And your PBR in a glass, Monsieur.

CHAD

From the can is just fine.

Chad takes Jaime by the hand.

CHAD (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry, babe. I wanted tonight to go perfectly and take some initiative like you've been begging me to do.

He puppy dog eyes. Jaime softens.

JAIME

Oh, Chad. How can I stay mad at a face like that?

CHAD

Can we start over?

JAIME

I would love that.

Chad takes Jaime's hand and kisses it.

INT. FANCY FRENCH RESTAURANT LOBSTER TANK - SAME

Clawdia and Shelly on-look.

SHELLY

Crap. Looks like they made up.

CLAWDIA

If it is our last moments together, I don't want to spend them worrying.

SHELLY

You're right.

They take each other's claws.

CLAWDIA

Close your eyes.

SHELLY

Why?

CLAWDIA

Trust me.

Shelly closes her eyes.

SHELLY

Ok?

CLAWDIA

Imagine us off the coast of Maine.

SHELLY

Can it be Australia?

CLAWDIA

Wherever you'd like, my love. It's just you, me, and the Coral Reef. We'd spend our days exploring the sea floor, and we'd make a home out of the finest barnacles in the land.

SHELLY

Oh, Clawdia, that sounds so lovely.

INT. FANCY FRENCH RESTAURANT - SAME

Jaime and Chad are still holding hands.

JAIME

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Chad thinks for a beat.

CHAD

Octoberfest.

JAIME

You mean Germany?

CHAD

What? No. Denver. Remember? My brother and I got wrecked downing IPAs at his bachelor party.

JAIME

Oh? So you're not even talking about the actual Octoberfest in Germany? The one place you want to go, in the whole world, is...Denver?

CHAD
They have Oktoberfest in Europe,
too? Sick.

He sees Jaime's obvious disappointment.

CHAD (CONT'D)
I mean. I'm just kidding babe. You
know the only place I wanna be is
with you.

JAIME
Really? You mean that?

CHAD
Of course. I love you.

JAIME
I love you, too.

The Waiter approaches with their drinks.

WAITER
Are we ready to order?

JAIME
Yes! I'd like the ratatouille,
please.

WAITER
Excellent choice, Mademoiselle. And
for you, sir?

CHAD
Oh, uh...

The Waiter shakes his head and tries to nonverbally warn Chad
to not order...

CHAD (CONT'D)
The lobster, of course.

The Waiter face palms.

JAIME
Chad!

CHAD
What?

INT. FANCY FRENCH RESTAURANT LOBSTER TANK - SAME

Clawdia and Shelly are still holding claws, as tightly as possible, and Shelly's eyes are still closed.

CLAWDIA

Every morning, I'd wake you up with a fresh plate of plankton and algae.

SHELLY

My favorite.

CLAWDIA

I know. And we'd pass the time pinching scuba diver's butts until they cry.

SHELLY

Also my favorite.

Clawdia watches the Waiter approach the tank.

She speaks with a sense of urgency.

CLAWDIA

And and I'd search every inch of the ocean for the biggest clam and get you a pearl that you deserve.

SHELLY

That sounds so lovely, Clawdia, But I don't need a pearl. I just need you.

CLAWDIA

It'll be something to remember me by.

SHELLY

Remember you by?

Shelly opens her eyes right when the Waiter dunks his hands in the tank and grabs Clawdia.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

NOOOOO! Clawdia!

Shelly reaches out and grabs one of Clawdia's legs.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Let go of her! You can't do this.

CLAWDIA

It's ok, Shelly. It's going to be ok.

Shelly refuses to let go of her love.

SHELLY

Noo! Please!

She pinches the Waiter's pinky.

WAITER

Ouch! C'mon, I'm just doing my job.

The Waiter struggles but manages to detach Shelly.

SHELLY

Please. I love her!

CLAWDIA

I love you, too.

Shelly cries.

Shelly watches the Waiter take Clawdia into the kitchen. She closes her eyes for a moment and imagines her and Clawdia swimming in the warm Australian waters. They're happy and laughing and splashing each other, because Lobsters have feelings, you know.

She opens her eyes prepared to see the love of her life served on a platter. Instead, she sees Jaime splashing Chad with her wine and storming out of the restaurant. Chad chases after her.

SHELLY

What?

Suddenly, she hears a loud KERPLUNK and is blinded by a thousand bubbles.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Help! Help! Who am I kidding, I'm all alone in here.

The bubbles subside and floating to the bottom of the tank is...

SHELLY (CONT'D)

Clawdia!

The two kiss.

CLAWDIA
Happy Valentine's Day, my love.

SHELLY
Happy Valentine's Day.