

Poetic License

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INT. MATT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A high school student is sitting at his desk doing his homework, clearly bored. He is in his classy clothes, but they are all rumpled-looking after him going through what looks like a long days work. This is MATT.

His phone buzzes as he is working. He goes to open it as he sees it is from his friend CRAIG.

INSERT - TEXT MESSAGE

"You should definitely give up on that creative writing poem and come over to this party. We both know you're not gonna finish it"

BACK TO SCENE

Matt just puts his phone back down without responding and looks back down at his unfinished poem.

MATT
(to himself)
Stupid poem.

Matt looks frustrated and gives up on it. He crumbles the paper up and throws it in his trash bin, then collapses in his bed and dozes off.

INT. HOMEROOM - DAY

Matt is seen sitting at his desk continuing on his failure of a poem. Craig sits down next to him as the NEWSCASTER is reciting the morning news.

NEWSCASTER
(on the television)
Good morning, Walpole High. Today is Monday, May 8th. It's a Day 3 and we start with period 7 this morning.

MATT
Damn it. I have Creative Writing first. There's no way this poem is going to be good enough.

Matt looks down, clearly upset, at his paper.

INSERT - THE "POEM"

"Matt Smith

Period 7

Creative Writing

'Mario Saves The Princess''

BACK TO SCENE

Matt scribbles something down, tears out the page, crumples it up, shoots it into the trash can, and starts again.

CRAIG

And I have my Physics test first.
And I didn't study much...or at
all.

MATT

Do you want my notes?

CRAIG

(enthusiastic)
YES, PLEASE.

Matt pulls out his notes and hands them over to Craig.

MATT

Okay, here. Just remember that
momentum is $P=MxV$. You always mix
up P and M. For whatever reason.

CRAIG

Right, right. Thanks, man.

The bell rings and they both walk out into the hallway.

INT. TECHNOLOGY HALLWAY

Matt and Craig are walking side by side.

MATT

I really don't want to go to
Creative Writing. It's the one
class keeping me off high honor
roll and it pisses me off. Alan's
a wackjob and I can't write poems
for the life of me.

CRAIG

Yeah, your poems are actually
horrible.

Matt glares at Craig.

CRAIG

What? Did you want me to lie to you about that? Look you just need to write about something common but complicated, like girls.

MATT

I wish it were that easy. This isn't a Disney movie where the totally cool princess falls in love with the average guy. This is real life where the average guy couldn't get the girl even if she was clinically insane.

CRAIG

Are you sure that you're not the crazy one?

Matt starts glaring at Craig once again with disdain.

Matt picks up speed, leaving Craig behind him.

CRAIG

Come on Matt I was only half joking!

The bell rings, and Matt starts running up the staircase to Alan's room.

INT. CREATIVE WRITING CLASS

MR. ALAN sits on a yoga mat, wearing a beret, meditating. His pet - a scrawny, awkward, and strange boy - FRANK is standing nearby. The class sits in a circle around him reciting poetry and snapping their fingers in applause.

Matt tip-toes into the room so that Mr. Alan can't feel the vibrations of his feet on the ground. KODY is reading the rest of his latest poem as Matt creeps over to a desk in the back corner and slouches down in the chair, putting up his hood and trying to avoid eye contact with anyone in the circle.

KODY

*Insert killer poem here

MR. ALAN

(still meditating)

Matt, I can feel you hiding back there. Where have you been?

MATT

(sighs)

Sorry, I was...uhh...helping
Cashman correct some grammar
quizzes.

MR. ALAN

Shh! Proper grammar is not welcome
in this classroom. We fully support
poetic license here.

Mr. Alan opens one eye to look at Matt, but maintains his
meditation pose.

MR. ALAN

You can't hide from creativity
forever, man. Join the circle and
read us your poem.

Matt scans the room, looking for an exit plan. He finds none
and unwillingly joins the circle.

The students snap for Matt as he hesitantly sits down.

MATT

Please don't make me do this.

Mr. Alan keeps his eye on Matt. Matt slinks down in his seat
and takes a scribble covered paper out of his backpack.

MATT

Mario is red, winged shells are
blue, Luigi is green, and Yoshi is
too. Birdo is pink, and Toad is
red, I played Mario Kart all
morning, so I forgot to make my
bed.

MR. ALAN

That's your fifth poem about Mario
Kart. Don't you have anything else
to write about?

MATT

No, Mr. Alan. You don't understand.
I've been spending all of my time
trying to ace this class. I haven't
had the time to go out anymore.

MR. ALAN

You need to stop worrying so much
and just go with the flow. Go out

(MORE)

MR. ALAN (CONT'D)

and get some new experiences and try to have some fun. Go to some parties or go meet a woman or something. You need something good that doesn't lack emotion for the Poetry reading.

Mr. Alan looks up to Frank.

MR. ALAN

Now, Frank, go get those new journals from the workroom. Fresh book, fresh ideas. Let's write some poetry!

Frank sulks and walks out the door.

INT. CREATIVE WRITING CLASS - LATER

The class is writing in their journals as Mr. Alan continues to meditate. Matt is drawing a picture of Yoshi instead of doing the assignment.

The bell rings, and Frank walks over to the door and opens it as students start to spill into the hallway.

MR. ALAN

Don't forget to get your submissions in for the Spring poetry reading! You get to read your poem AND receive extra credit so make sure you choose your best works.

Straggling behind the rest of his classmates Matt quickly gathers his things and heads to the door where Mr. Alan is waiting for him.

MR. ALAN

See you tomorrow Matt, I hope to see your name on the submissions list. Don't forget to live life to the fullest, now!

Matt gives Alan a nod of the head and proceeds to leave the classroom, but, on Mr. Alan's cue, Frank shoves Matt sending him sprawling into the hallway.

INT. ENGLISH WING HALLWAY

Matt topples over a confident looking girl who was keeping to herself as she was walking down the hall. This is ROSE.

Frank is standing in the doorway smiling at the jumbled mess of Matt and Rose, then shoots a look back into the room.

MR. ALAN (O.S.)
There you go, man. Life experience.
Enjoy.

Frank shuts the door, and Matt stands up and clumsily helps Rose up.

MATT
I'm so sorry. Are you okay?

ROSE
What's your problem, Klutz?

MATT
(mumbling)
I um... Well you see... I just...
Um... Yeah... I...

Matt looks around in search for the right words.

ROSE
Ugh, I'm sorry, I don't have time
for this! I'm going to class.

Craig walks into the hallway just in time to see Rose roll her eyes and push Matt out of her way down the hall.

CRAIG
Dude, who was that?

MATT
(hesitantly)
I think her name is Rose. She sits
near me in calculus.

CRAIG
Well what happened?

MATT
It's nothing, don't worry about it.
I'm going to be late to class.
I'll see you at lunch.

EXT. PICNIC TABLES

Matt and Craig are sitting at the table near the trash barrel, eating.

CRAIG
Hey are you going to Eric's party
(MORE)

CRAIG (CONT'D)

tonight?

MATT

I don't know, man. I have to find something new to write about. Apparently Mario Kart isn't cutting it anymore.

CRAIG

Well hanging out with your parents all weekend isn't going to cut it either.

MATT

I mean I guess you're right. I'm just pissed about earlier.

CRAIG

Oh, yeah! What the hell was that?

MATT

Alan's pet person tripped me on my way out of class and I fell on top of this random...girl...

Matt gets up to throw away trash, walking backwards to still face Craig. Rose is also seen walking towards the table next to theirs.

MATT (CONTINUOUS)

...and Alan was all like 'you need some life experience, man' and...

Matt turns around abruptly to throw away his trash, where he immediately runs into Rose, spilling both his trash and her lunch all over them.

ROSE

(sighing)

You know I'm getting real tired of always meeting you like this!

MATT

Oh my god...I...I'm SO sorry.
I...I don't...

ROSE

I don't want to hear it. I'm going to go get cleaned up now, if that's alright with you.

As Rose stomps away Matt looks back, where Craig is gesturing for Matt to go after her.

INT. CAFETERIA

Rose is walking with a drained expression on her face. Matt walks up quickly behind her and tries to talk to her.

MATT

Hey I'm sorry for everything. It's been a long day.

ROSE

(annoyed)

Save it.

MATT

(speaking very quickly)

I just... Frank pushed me and Mr. Alan was telling me I clearly need life experience because I can't keep writing poetry about Mario Kart and...

Rose cuts him off as they walk out of the cafeteria.

INT. CAFETERIA ENTRANCE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

ROSE

Mario Kart, huh? Interesting.

MATT

(embarrassed)

Yeah...

There is a brief, awkward pause.

ROSE

Sounds like you need to get out of the house more, maybe get a girlfriend or something.

MATT

(nervously laughing)

Yeah, probably.

They both turn into their respective bathrooms.

INT. BOY'S BATHROOM

Matt walks up to the mirror and washed off his clothes and washes his face. He sighs to himself and rubs his face with his hands, and walks back out into the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Matt walks out of the bathroom and heads towards the cafeteria. As he walks away, he looks back at the girls bathroom and he stops for a second, waiting. Then he continues walking back to lunch.

EXT. PICNIC TABLES

Matt sits back down where he was with Craig.

CRAIG
You okay there?

MATT
Yeah...I'm fine. Just a little rattled.

CRAIG
You need a break, man. Come to Eric's party with me. It'll be fun.

MATT
But...

CRAIG
(interrupting)
No, it's not an option. You're coming.

INT. CRAIG'S CAR

Craig and Matt pull up to what should be Eric's house, but no other cars are parked around it.

CRAIG
That's weird...we must be the first ones here.

Matt looks at Craig in worry and confusion.

EXT. ERIC'S FRONT DOORSTEP

The door opens to reveal a scrawny underclassman dressed in a warlock costume. This is ERIC. He inhales a giant helium filled balloon as Matt glares at Craig. Craig shrugs innocently.

ERIC
Welcome to the annual Dungeons and Dragons extravaganza! Seems like we have some new members! Did you bring your own costumes?

Matt continues to glare at Craig.

ERIC

That's okay, we have plenty!

Eric motions for them to follow him. The boys all walk over to a closet. Eric opens the door revealing a plethora of warrior, princess and warlock costumes.

MATT

(muttering to himself)

You've got to be kidding me.

ERIC

Do either of you want to be the princess? We don't know many girls, so I usually wear the dress. It's not that bad really, it's very spacious.

Craig reaches for the pink dress and Matt slaps his hand down.

MATT

We're going to get a soda, don't wait up.

ERIC

Hurry back or you'll miss the first round!

INT. ERIC'S KITCHEN

Matt drags Craig into the kitchen.

MATT

Dude, what the hell?!

CRAIG

Well I mean I felt bad since he always has to be the princess so-

MATT

Forget about the dress! I'm talking about this party! What are we doing at Eric's house?

CRAIG

Well I thought it was Eric Johnson's party, not Eric Tyler's. But while we're here we might as well try to enjoy it and have some fun.

Matt goes to look in the fridge for a soda, but does not

find one.

MATT
 (aggravated)
 Eric, where do you keep your soda,
 if you're even old enough to drink
 soda...

ERIC (O.S.)
 It's in the basement fridge! Help
 yourself!

MATT
 (looking at Craig)
 I will, thank you.

INT. ERIC'S BASEMENT

Matt walks down the stairs and finds the fridge. He grabs a
 Root Beer while sighing.

After he opens the Root Beer, he turns around to find Rose
 on the couch playing Mario Kart intensely.

MATT
 (shocked)
 Rose?..

ROSE
 (also shocked)
 What the hell are you doing here?

MATT
 What the hell am I doing here?
 What the hell are YOU doing here?

ROSE
 I live here...what's your excuse?

Matt freezes and looks around the room searching for
 something to say.

ROSE
 Wait...are you here for my loser
 brother's nerd convention?

MATT
 Yes. NO. I mean...it was an
 accident. Craig brought me here.

ROSE
 I'm not even going to ask.

MATT

Good choice.

There is an awkward pause between the two of them. As Matt looks around and notices that Mario Kart is being played.

MATT

Are you playing Mario Kart?

ROSE

Absolutely. It's the greatest game ever...you could almost write poetry about it

MATT

(muttering)

Oh my god.

ROSE

(pulls out a piece of paper)

Mario is red, winged shells are blue-

MATT

How do you know about that!?

ROSE

I may have been walking by Alan's room when you were reciting that beautiful poem of yours, it nearly brought me to tears

Rose pretends to wipe a tear from her eye as Matt tries to hide his face with his hands.

ROSE

Oh come on it could be worse

Rose smiles.

MATT

No it really couldn't

Rose rolls her eyes

ROSE

Whatever. So are we playing this game or what.

Matt smiles

MATT

You're on.

Matt goes to sit down next to her on the couch as Rose hands him a controller.

MONTAGE: MARIO KART

-- Matt and Rose start to play their race. Matt gets excited as he is now in first place. Rose gets heated and she starts to shove him to distract him.

-- Rose won the next race. She starts cheering in excitement. Matt then looks at her with disdain and vengeance in his eyes.

-- In another race, Rose is in first place, and Matt is losing badly. He then throws a blue shell at her, knocking her out of first, causing her to lose the race. She then takes his controller as the next race is starting and throws it across the room, and he scrambles to get up and get it back.

MATT (O.S.)

That's not fair! False start!

ROSE

(chuckling)

I don't know what you're talking about.

-- Matt jumps onto the couch, bouncing the cushions, and causing Rose to get knocked over. She then yells out a battle cry and tackles him.

INT. ERIC'S BASEMENT

Matt and Rose are sitting on the couch, finished with their Mario Kart war. They both sigh with relief that it is over.

MATT

That was pretty fun, not gonna lie.

ROSE

Yeah, yeah it was.

There is a brief pause as they both smile.

ROSE

So what was that earlier?

MATT

You mean running into you twice in

(MORE)

MATT (CONT'D)

one day? That was a total accident, I swear. It all basically started when Alan told me to get life experience and had Frank trip me.

ROSE

Ahh I see. What is this experience for exactly?

MATT

I can't write poems for the life of me. All I can write about is Mario Kart.

ROSE

Well did he suggest anything?

MATT

He wanted me to go to parties and meet girls. He thought it was a good idea.

ROSE

So is that why you came to my brother's gathering? I mean sometimes he pays me to be the princess, but other than that there are never any girls here.

MATT

Well, kind of. Craig took me to the wrong party.

ROSE

(laughing)

You have incredible bad luck. But hey, you've gone to a party and talked to a girl. That's progress.

MATT

All I've done is tackle people to the ground and accidentally fall into a dungeons and dragons party. I just wish it were as easy as writing a poem for a princess and winning her over and living happily ever after and stuff.

ROSE

(quizically)

Ahuh... You want to write about falling in love with some helpless,

(MORE)

ROSE (CONT'D)

dim-witted princess? You must really have nothing good to write about.

MATT

All I've got is Mario Kart and Calculus, and that's not going to cut it.

ROSE

So...you're pretty good at calculus, huh?

MATT

Yes, what are you getting at?

ROSE

I think I have a deal for you.

MATT

What do you mean?

ROSE

Well, I have had plenty of relationship experience, so I can help give you that experience in one week.

MATT

Hmm...in exchange for what?

ROSE

I could always use some help studying for our Calculus test.

MATT

Okay. Deal.

Awkward silence follows.

MATT

I should probably go check on Craig.

ROSE

Okay. See you tomorrow

Matt heads up the stairs.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Matt walks into the room to see Craig, Eric and his friends gathered around the table, all in costume. Craig is in a

princess dress and a tiara. Snacks are all over the floor and the group seems to be in utter chaos.

MATT

Uhh...Craig? What exactly are you doing?

Craig rolls the die and immediately stands up. Craig has won the game. He throws his fists in the air and cheers.

CRAIG

YES! THE PRINCESS WINS AGAIN!

Matt rolls his eyes as the losers groan in agony over the loss of the game.

CRAIG

(evilly)

NOW PAY YOUR PRINCESS HER WINNINGS.

Every member hands him a bag of sour patch kids.

Matt, frustrated, pries Craig away from the nerds.

MATT

(angrily)

We're leaving. Now.

CRAIG

(whining)

Oh, come on! I just stormed Dragonspear Castle and became the dungeon master!

Matt drags him towards the door.

CRIAG

I'll see you next weekend, guys!

ERIC

Don't forget to get the dress dry cleaned!

INT. CRAIG'S CAR

Matt sits in the driver's seat and furiously snatches Craig's keys.

CRAIG

Well, somebody isn't too happy about missing the game...

MATT

No, I'm perfectly content with not playing Dungeons and Dragons. I have a problem.

CRAIG

Yeah, you do, you don't like dungeons and dragons.

MATT

Let it go. I have a legitimate problem. It's Rose again.

CRAIG

She was here? I didn't even know she was there. Does SHE like dungeons and dragons?

MATT

Craig, this is serious.

Matt gets a pale and frightened look on his face.

MATT

(panicked)

She wants to DATE ME!

CRAIG

HEY! Congratulations! Your first girlfriend! It's about time...

MATT

CRAIG! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!

CRAIG

(winking)

I think I do.

MATT

Craig. She is going to blast through every aspect of a relationship in under a week. Dates and fights and crying. How am I supposed to do this? It sounded like such a good idea until I actually thought about it.

Craig pauses and looks frightened.

CRAIG

Wait, what? That's insane, dude. You guys are psychos. Just go home and hide.

Matt groans and buries his head in his hands. Craig admires himself in the mirror and strokes his tiara, then he grabs the keys and starts the car.

INT. CREATIVE WRITING CLASS - THE NEXT DAY

Matt walks into class, clearly flustered.

Mr. Alan is sitting on his yoga mat like he always is, with Garrison playing in the background.

MR. ALAN
(eyes shut)
Hello, Matt.

Matt gets startled by him.

MATT
Damn it, I forgot to tiptoe.

MR. ALAN
How's your next poem coming?

MATT
I'm working on it.

MR. ALAN
So I've heard.

Matt gives him a weird look. He sees Rose walking in the hallway, and goes to talk to her.

INT. ENGLISH WING HALLWAY

Matt runs to catch up to Rose, and taps on her shoulder. She turns around and smiles excitedly.

Mr. Alan is seen being pushed by FRANK on his mobile yoga mat [yoga mat on plywood with wheels, like a wagon that's really close to the ground] in the doorway. He slyly smiles as he sees Matt staring down the hall.

ROSE
Hey, babe!

MATT
Umm, hi.

ROSE
Aren't you supposed to be in class or something?

MATT
I could ask you the same thing.

ROSE

Fair point. So, what's up?

MATT

Want to meet me in the library
after school so we can study for
our Calc test?

ROSE

Sounds good to me! See you then!

Rose smiles and gives him an enormous hug, then skips away. Matt stands there looking like a deer in the headlights, not knowing what to do.

Right as Matt is motioning to turn around and head back to class, Mr. Alan turns to Frank and starts bickering.

MR. ALAN

(violently whispering)

Frank. Frank! Turn me around.
Frank, he's coming! Come on, Frank!

Frank pushes him into the hallway more.

MR. ALAN

FRANK! NO! WRONG WAY! WHAT'S WRONG
WITH YOU?!

FRANK

Sorry!

Frank tries to roll Mr. Alan back into his room, but is caught early when Matt turns around.

Frank stops dead and looks at Matt. Mr. Alan is startled and quickly gathers himself.

MR. ALAN

Oh, hello Matt! Don't forget that
your poem is due soon. You need
that poem for the poetry reading,
Matt. I'm counting on you.

Matt looks like he has completely forgotten.

MATT

Okay, Mr. Alan. I haven't
forgotten.

Mr. Alan gives Frank one of his classic looks of disdain as Matt walks away.

INT. LIBRARY

Rose and Matt are sitting at a table in one of the glass study rooms with calculus books, calculators, and notebooks all over the table.

Rose hands Matt her notebook, and he corrects the problems. She got them all right.

MATT
You're definitely going to pass
this test next week.

Matt hands the notebook back to Rose.

ROSE
You're the best!

Rose jumps onto Matt's lap and gives him a kiss on the cheek.

MATT
Just saying thanks would have been
enough.

ROSE
Yeah for friends, maybe.

MATT
Okay, but-

ROSE
Listen, we've only got a week to do
this. We really don't have much
time. We need to speed things up a
little.

MATT
What do you-

Rose's phone beeps.

ROSE
I have to go. Thanks, babe. I'll
see you later!

Rose kisses his cheek again and struts out of the room.

Matt looks completely dumfounded and watches Rose as she leaves.

MONTAGE: THE RELATIONSHIP

-- Matt and Rose are seen at the park having a picnic,

feeding each other food and laughing.

-- They are seen at the movie theater, watching a chick flick. Rose snuggles up next to Matt as they both smile.

-- They are now seen hiking in the woods. Rose is power walking up the trail, while Matt is trailing behind.

-- Matt is teaching Rose calculus in the library.

-- On the nature trail, Matt signals for Rose to wait up. He trips on a root and falls to the ground. Rose walks toward him, laughing.

-- Matt is sitting with his friends at lunch. Rose pops up out of nowhere and kisses him on the cheek in the middle of the cafeteria. She then frowns, slaps him, and stomps off.

-- They are walking together in a nice looking neighborhood, and they reach a large puddle. Matt scoops her off the ground and carries her across the puddle.

-- On the nature trail, Rose is seen giving Matt a piggyback down the trail.

EXT. PICNIC TABLES

Matt is talking to Craig at one of the tables. Rose walks over and sits down.

CRAIG

Well... I'm going to go... Do the thing that I have to do... Over there.

Craig awkwardly shuffles away from the table.

MATT

Hey! I got you something.

Matt reaches into his backpack and pulls out a small, wrapped box and gives it to Rose.

ROSE

About that... We need to talk.

MATT

Okay, what's up?

Rose pushes the box back across the table.

ROSE

Yeah, I don't think this is working out.

MATT

What do you mean?

ROSE

Look, you're a nice guy and all...
It's not you, it's me. Well,
actually it's mostly you.

MATT

Wait, are you... Are you breaking
up with me?

ROSE

Yeah. Yeah, I am. I mean, you hate
all my friends, you always chew
with your mouth open, you smell
horrible no matter how much
deodorant you put on, and I find
you really irritating most of the
time. All you do is talk about
calculus and your grades and
frankly I think I'm just out of
your league.

MATT

But-

ROSE

Don't. Trying to fight it will just
make it worse for both of us. I'm
sorry, I was really hoping this
would work out.

Rose gets up from the picnic table and walks back towards
the school leaving Matt completely dumbfounded.

INT. MATH HALLWAY - THE NEXT DAY

Matt speed walks down the hallway to catch up to Rose. He
slows down to walk next to her.

She doesn't acknowledge his existence.

MATT

Hey, do you want to come over after
school so I can help you with math?

ROSE

Look, it's over, okay? You don't
have to try to be my friend or
anything. I helped you and you
helped me, it's done.

Rose quickly walks into a classroom to avoid Matt.

Matt looks into the class from the hallway, looking heartbroken, while Rose is distraught against the wall, hoping he just keeps walking by.

Matt then keeps walking after a few seconds.

INT. MATT'S BEDROOM

Matt is sitting at his desk. His floor is covered in what looks like billions of crumpled up pieces of paper.

He has his Rico's comfort food by his side. As he takes a bite, he is so happy because it tastes so good. As he takes his bite, he gets a burst of genius and starts to write.

We see him writing away intensely for the rest of the night.

INT. CREATIVE WRITING CLASS

Mr. Alan, once again, on his yoga mat with his eyes closed, Frank by his side.

Matt walks into the room slowly and clearly upset.

MR. ALAN

Matt! It's good to feel your footsteps on the floor! How are you?

FRANK

(excited)

HI MATT!

MR. ALAN

Frank! What did I tell you about speaking to people?

FRANK

(sadly)

To not do it.

MR. ALAN

That's right. Now, Matt, I believe you have a poem for me.

Matt hands him his poem.

MR. ALAN

I can tell by its feel that it is not about Mario Kart this time. Correct?

MATT

Yes, you're right.

Mr. Alan opens one eye to read the poem. He shakes his head and looks back up at Matt

MR. ALAN

Honestly Matt this is all you could come up with.

MATT

What do you mean I spent all night writing that poem! Its exactly what you told me to write about!

MR. ALAN

I told you to write something with emotion! Not some something you stole from the back of a hallmark card. Where's the heart break? Where's the agonizing pain or immense joy?! I'm pretty sure you like Mario Kart more than this girl!

MATT

But Mr. Alan-

MR. ALAN

This is an improvement, but I'm sorry Matt it's still not great. At this point the highest grade is an 89. The poetry reading was extra credit but there's no way that you can submit a good poem in time for the reading. I really thought you wouldn't disappoint me.

Mr. Alan opens both eyes and looks up at Matt as he gives him back the poem and then gestures for Frank to wheel him out of the classroom.

INT. RICOS

Matt enters Ricos and orders some food. He turns around and spots Rose sitting with a couple of her friends laughing in the back corner. Matt walks up to the table and faces Rose.

MATT

Hey can I talk to you for a sec?

Rose looks up at Matt with a confused expression but nods

her head in agreement.

ROSE
I'll be right back guys

Rose's friends nod their heads and go back to their conversation as Rose gets up from their table and follows Matt out of Ricos and into the parking lot.

EXT. RICOS PARKING LOT

ROSE
What's up?

MATT
Well you seemed pretty distraught over the break up so I just wanted to apologize for-

Rose cuts off Matt as she starts to burst into hysterics.

ROSE
You don't think that I was actually upset right!?

MATT
Well I mean when I tried to talk to you earlier today you-

ROSE
Hello earth to Matt that was all part of the deal remember! Breaking up is part of being in a relationship, moron.

MATT
Wait so you never actually liked me?

ROSE
(awkwardly)
Look... as much as I would love to stay and chat, my friends are waiting for my inside so I'll talk to you later or something okay?

MATT
Um, okay...I guess

ROSE
Oh and thanks to you I got an A on my calc test!

Rose runs back into Rico's leaving Matt in the parking lot.

INT. MATT'S BEDROOM

Matt digs violently through his backpack until he finds his poem. He rips it to shreds and throws it in the trash. He tears his notebook out of his backpack, slaps it onto his desk, and starts scribbling down a new poem.

INT. HOMEROOM

Matt and Craig are sitting in their usual spots. Craig is studying the new physics notes.

MATT

Hey, you're coming to the poetry reading right?

CRAIG

I think so, why?

MATT

I need you to do me a favor.

INT. BARNES AND NOBLE

TABLES NEAR PODIUM

The Creative Writing class and many others are sitting in the Starbucks section listening to kids read off their poems. Matt is sitting in the audience watching the door.

DOORWAY

Princess Craig leads Eric and the nerds into the room. Rose is at the back of the pack. She is wearing a princess dress and counting a wad of cash.

ROSE

Why are we at Barnes and Noble?

CRIAG

Shhh. Stay in character. This is the kingdom of the slave lords, our most feared enemies.

Rose rolls her eyes in disgust. Craig leads the group to a table in the back.

PODIUM

Kody is up at the podium reading. Mr Alan is on his mat and Frank is sitting in a chair off to the side of the podium. Matt walks confidently to Mr. Alan then hands him the poem.

FRANK

Hey! It's too late for new submissions. It's already the middle of the-

MR. ALAN

Frank.

FRANK

Right. Sorry.

Mr. Alan holds the poem, sniffs it, rubs it on his face, and hands it back to Matt.

MR. ALAN

This is more like it! Get up there, kid!

MATT

Okay, thanks.

Matt walks over to the podium and clears his throat. Craig and the nerds cheer him on. Rose organizes her money.

MATT (CONT'D)

This poem is called 'Roses'.

CRAIG'S TABLE

Rose looks up from her money and watches Matt intently.

ROSE

Craig, what's going on.

PODIUM

MATT

Since I was young
I have always had this dream
That I would save the princess
And she would fall in love with me

CRAIG'S TABLE

Rose shifts to the edge of her seat. Craig looks at her anxiously.

PODIUM

MATT

But I never imagined
That the princess
Would slay the dragon,

(MORE)

MATT (CONT'D)

And end up saving me

CRAIG'S TABLE

Craig nudges Rose. Rose stands up and slowly steps forward. Eric and the nerds cheer.

PODIUM

MATT

She had the scent of roses
Subtle but oh so sweet
Her red petals were so delicate
But her thorns were all that she could see

CRAIG'S TABLE

Rose continues to slowly walk towards the podium.

MATT

I could never tell you all that she taught me
Or all the things she made me see

Rose is now standing directly in front of the podium. They lock eyes.

MATT

But one things for sure,
Roses are the only flower for me.

The crowd applauds after he finishes, including Rose.

Matt steps down from the podium and walks over to Rose

MATT (CONT'D)

You came?

Rose nods her head.

ROSE

I loved your poem.

MATT

It was about you, you know.

ROSE

(sarcastically)
Really? I had no idea.

Rose and Matt kiss. Mr. Alan looks at them, smiling. He then looks up at Frank, straight into the camera and winks.

FADE OUT