

LOVE BITES

Written by

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**EXT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY**

**SUPER: "4 DAYS BEFORE VALENTINES"**

Ah, Valentines Day. A time when love's sweet sentiments are smothered by greed and profit. Big red hearts frame SALE SIGNS for every holiday retail standard, from chocolates to engagement rings. Loudspeakers crank out CANNED LOVE SONGS.

Sad sack JEREMY, 19-20, browses aimlessly, scowls at two stuffed teddy bears kissing in a store window. Everywhere he looks, he sees young COUPLES in love:

WHITE COUPLE, 30s, point to engagement rings at Lay Jewelry store's window display.

A Poster declares: "SHE WANTS TO GET LAY'D."

TEEN COUPLE poses for phone selfie in front of a Cupid mall decoration. MALE TEEN pantomimes being shot by Cupid's arrow.

GAY COUPLE hold hands, gaze and point at Jimmy Choo display.

At a high-end chocolate kiosk, a poster features a picture of amorous couple and headline: "LOVE BEGINS WITH LOVE BITES."

Jeremy closes his eyes. It's all literally painful to him. He opens his eyes and zeros in on a PRETTY BLONDE, 18.

Pretty Blonde walks toward him, waves.

Jeremy looks around, points to himself.

JEREMY  
(mouths)  
Me?

She nods yes, moving right into his personal space.

Jeremy beams, gazes heavenward. There is a God!

Pretty Blonde hands him her cell phone, points to her MUSCLE MAN boyfriend to request Jeremy take their picture.

**QUICK CUTS OF PICTURES JEREMY TAKES:**

1. Close up of Blonde's face
2. Shot of Blonde that cuts out Muscle Man. Just his arm over her shoulder
3. Perfectly framed Blonde with Muscle Man, minus his head

Jeremy hands back the cell phone.

Pretty blonde checks the pictures, looks back at Jeremy like he's a tool.

Jeremy misses it, already thoroughly dejected.

A happy couple, PRETTY BRUNETTE and SCHLUBBY GUY, pass a wastebasket. Schlubby Guy holds onto a small hard-bound book, but Pretty Brunette yanks it out of his hands with a kiss and tosses it into the trash.

Schlubby Guy looks back like he lost his best friend, until Pretty Brunette slinks off the shoulder of her shirt and he's all about her again.

Jeremy pulls the book out of the trash. Title reads: "LOVE FOR LOSERS." He opens it to first chapter title: "LOVE WILL FIND YOU."

Jeremy reads, instantly engrossed.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
(British accent)  
Are you lonely, especially in  
crowds?

Jeremy looks up, nods.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Is your love life nonexistent? Do  
you feel like a loser?

Jeremy sadly nods.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
If so, you're not alone. Millions  
of lose-- er, people-- have the  
same problem.

Jeremy looks up at yet another HAPPY COUPLE. He scoffs, shakes his head in disbelief.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
It's true. You need to stop looking  
for love, silly ninny. That's a  
Taker's attitude. Be a Giver.

Jeremy looks doubtful, shakes his head.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
You can do it! Simply look for a  
way to give to others, and love  
will find you!

### **IN THE MALL PARKING LOT**

Head down reading, Jeremy collides with a WOOZY MAN exiting a blood donor trailer. The trailer features a sign that reads: "GIVE BLOOD: THE GIFT OF LIFE!"

Woozy Man stumbles away, wearing an "I GAVE BLOOD" shirt sticker. The man is pale and weak. He drops his keys.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Doing good deeds can lead to new  
friends! So get going! Do good!

Jeremy looks up from the book, puffs out his chest. He bends to get Woozy Man's keys and confidently marches over to return them.

Woozy Man gladly takes them back, slaps Jeremy on the shoulder in thanks. Bro hug.

Jeremy turns away, pleased with himself for doing something good, and spots...

### **A YOUNG NURSE AT THE DONOR TRAILER STEPS**

She smiles at Jeremy, having witnessed his good deed. She holds a stack of flyers, smiles, beckons him with her eyes.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Of course, one good deed deserves  
another. Give freely and the  
benefits will astound you!

Jeremy's whole world changes. Drawn to her, he fails to notice Woozy Man collide with, and fall into, a trash can.

Young Nurse hands Jeremy a flyer. It begs: "DONATE NOW!"

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Now, as new friends enter your  
life, take it easy. Your judgement  
is bloody awful, or you wouldn't be  
reading this book.

Soft golden light rims her head from behind, as Young Nurse gets better looking! A breeze blows her hair away from her face, and every one of her features improves. Her eyelashes grow, her skin turns to alabaster perfection, and her lips deepen to a juicy red. She becomes breathtaking-- ten times better looking than she was seconds before.

Jeremy blinks, falls in love with just one look.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Use caution. Your hunger for  
affection can make you see things  
that simply aren't there.

Jeremy blinks, as the Young Nurse's breast size inflates  
before his eyes.

She beckons Jeremy inside to donate blood. He can't resist.

#### **IN THE BLOOD DONATION TRAILER**

A normal mobile home has been turned into a place to donate  
blood. A step down from being professional, it gets the job  
done. A couch and two lawn chairs have been set up for blood  
donations.

Each has an I.V. stand. Nearby shelves are stocked with  
standard medical equipment: blood pressure device, gauze,  
tape, test tubes, saline. A small refrigerator contains a  
supply of apple juice.

At the back of the trailer is a mini-lab set up in what was  
once the kitchen. A studious-looking MALE LAB TECH, 40s, clad  
in blue scrubs, stethoscope around his neck, types data into  
a laptop. He looks up, nods at Jeremy, resumes working.

Young Nurse hands him a clipboard with a pen and a card. It  
asks for: "NAME and PHONE." As he takes it, her hand briefly  
brushes his.

Their eyes meet. Her expression seems to say: "Come hither."  
She flips back long hair, revealing her name tag: "ZINA."

JEREMY  
(silently mouths)  
Zina?

She nods, looks down shyly, blushes, bites her lip.

Jeremy can't believe his luck. She's flirting with him! He  
kisses the book, tucks it under his arm.

The light behind her brightens -- and her looks improve  
again! Her lips are fuller and there's a new bounce to her  
long, curly hair. In fact, it looks longer!

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Remember. Your judgement is caca.  
Don't make any rash commitments.  
Remain cool and aloof.

Jeremy can't take his eyes off her, stumbles onto the couch to fill out the form. He writes in all the wrong spots, completely illegible, his eyes locked onto hers.

When he hands back the clipboard, she seats him in a reclining chair and takes his vitals. As she stoops to swab his arm, he catches a fleeting glimpse of cleavage. It looks even bigger!

Zina pokes a needle into his vein and the bag fills with Jeremy's blood. His head lolls back and his eyes close.

**INSERT - SUN-DRENCHED FIELD - JEREMY'S HALLUCINATION**

Blue skies fill with ice cream clouds and blowing dandelion seeds. Jeremy lies on his back. Zina lies on top of him, covers his face with kisses. He LAUGHS, delighted.

**END INSERT**

**EXT. PARKING LOT OUTSIDE THE BLOOD DONATION TRAILER**

Jeremy is flat on his back...

NARRATOR (V.O)

Of course, we're confident you'll  
meet someone very special...

Zina's face becomes... a golden lab, who licks his face.

NARRATOR (V.O)

...And don't be surprised if you're  
swept off your feet.

He wobbles to his feet, still holding a juice box and a cookie. A sticker on his shirt claims he gave blood.

Jeremy gives the cookie to the dog, drinks the juice.

A sign on the blood donation trailer's door reads: "CLOSED."  
He spots the book on the ground, picks it up, perplexed. He opens the book again.

NARRATOR (V.O)

When that special someone magically  
appears, it's natural to feel  
giddy... light-headed, even. Just  
relax, and for now, don't worry  
about where it's headed.

He trips over a parking speed bump and falls face forward.

**EXT. BLOOD DONATION TRAILER, MALL PARKING LOT - DAY**

**SUPER: "3 DAYS BEFORE VALENTINES"**

NARRATOR (V.O)  
Meeting again? Good for you!  
Flowers are an unexpected way to  
say, 'I'm glad I met you.'

Jeremy shows up to donate blood. Behind his back, a bouquet of red roses. He waits, as pale, sickly MALE BLOOD DONORS, dazed and confused, stumble out of the trailer.

Finally, Jeremy's turn.

**INSIDE THE TRAILER**

NARRATOR (V.O)  
But don't rush things. You want to  
appear casual, cool. Not like some  
needy psycho who causes her to  
change her locks... My apologies to  
Helen, Audrey, and especially Linda  
Spidiacci at 3321 Elmhurst Drive.

Zina LAUGHS at him. She points to a calendar. The days of the month have been X-ed out, except for the upcoming days. She points to a spot a week away, indicates when he can give blood again. His face falls.

He gives her the flowers, tries his best casual, cool look.

NARRATOR (V.O)  
After your second date, you may  
want a kiss.

He closes his eyes, moves in for a little peck.

NARRATOR (V.O)  
Make sure your new friend does too.

She moves in also. Male Lab Tech notices, shakes his head. He does not approve.

Zina holds up a hand to stop the kiss. Her lips form a perfect pout.

Jeremy motions with parted finger and thumb his desire to donate just a little more blood.

She looks back at Lab Tech, who shakes his head again: NO. She ushers Jeremy out the door.

**IN THE PARKING LOT**

Zina gives Jeremy a kiss.

NARRATOR (V.O)  
Regard it as a sweet gesture of  
affection, nothing more...

**INSERT - SUN-DRENCHED FIELD - JEREMY'S HALLUCINATION**

Jeremy is in la-la-land again. He grabs his heart, spins around and around until he falls gently to the grass--deliriously in love.

NARRATOR (V.O)  
... And promise yourself not to  
overreact or blow your new  
relationship out of proportion...

A series of SQUEAKS bursts his happy bubble. He looks up and sees bats fly across the sky.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
... That never ends well.

He feels around him... confused. Something isn't right!

**END INSERT****EXT. PARKING LOT OUTSIDE TRAILER - DUSK**

Jeremy's hand strokes the rough tarmac of the parking lot. He sits up, looks around, confused.

He turns to see a BAG LADY pushing her squeaky shopping cart. The cart SQUEAKS just like his imagined bats.

NARRATOR (V.O)  
...For love expects no reward, nor  
even love in return.

Bag Lady stops next to him and tosses some coins in his hat, then moves on.

**EXT. WALKWAY NEAR MALL PARKING LOT - DAY****SUPER: "2 DAYS BEFORE VALENTINES"**

Jeremy's feet saunter confidently toward the trailer.



NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Being in love can put a spring in  
your step, and transform the way  
you look and feel.

**EXT. TRAILER, MALL PARKING LOT - DAY**

Reveal Jeremy wears a disguise. He's dressed like a seventies rock star with mullet wig, sunglasses and bedazzled clothes.

Zina and the Lab Tech stare at him from the trailer door. They see right through his disguise. Zina hides a giggle, but Lab Tech is not impressed.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Of course, not everyone will be on  
cloud nine with you... Don't let  
things get heated between you and  
your new love's circle of friends.

Jeremy starts toward the door, but Lab Tech puts out a hand to stop him. As his hand touches Jeremy's chest, it smokes.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Stay casual and cool. No talking  
politics or religion.

Lab Tech falls back, cradling his smoking hand.

C.U. of a cross around Jeremy's neck.

Confused, he looks back at the Lab Tech and Zina, who stand exactly where they were a moment before. Lab Tech is unhurt-- his hand looks fine.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
Territorial flare-ups can cloud  
your judgement. Instead, share the  
warmth of your new love with  
everyone around you.

Jeremy shakes his head.

Lab Tech stalks off, waves at Zina to handle it.

She shows him the calendar again. Smooths back his hair from his brow. She is concerned for him. Gives him a pamphlet that reads: "DIZZINESS & BLOOD DONATION."

Zina walks him away from the trailer... and slips him a note and another kiss on the neck.

**ON THE NOTE**

One word: "TOMORROW" has a heart drawn around it.

**AT THE TRAILER DOOR**

Zina, framed by glorious light, blows Jeremy a parting kiss.

**EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS, MALL - MONTAGE**

Multiple shots of Jeremy as he reads the note over and over. He dances with it. He kisses it. He hugs it to his chest.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

But let not your love light shine  
so brightly that it blinds you to  
the truth.

Finally, he sits down at a bench, sets the note beside him.

**C.U. ON NOTE**

It really says... "A WEEK."

**EXT. MALL WALKWAY - DAY****SUPER: "1 DAY BEFORE VALENTINES"**

Jeremy struts like a peacock down the walkway toward the parking lot. He wears his best suit.

He holds a box of "LOVE BITES" chocolates behind his back.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

As your relationship grows, it will  
become as comfortable as your  
favorite slippers.

**EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY**

The Blood Donation Trailer is gone!

Frantic, Jeremy searches the whole parking lot...

... And finally spots the trailer.

**EXT. TRAILER - DAY**

Jeremy BANGS on the door. No one answers.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
If other suitors suddenly pop into  
the picture, fear not.

He peeks into the windows. A BIG BRUISER looks back. Jeremy is stunned, then confused.

Big Bruiser storms out of his trailer.

Jeremy can't believe it's not the blood donor trailer. He has to see inside! He points at the mall. Big Bruiser looks that way. Jeremy scoots around him and dashes inside the trailer.

**INT. BIG BRUISER'S TRAILER**

It looks like a normal mobile home trailer. Nothing like the blood donation setup.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
If you were meant to be...

Bruiser yanks Jeremy out of his trailer. The chocolate box opens, and Love Bites fly everywhere.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
...There's nothing that can stand  
in your way.

Big Bruiser cocks his arm back and punches. His giant fist blacks out the scene.

**EXT. MALL DUMPSTERS - DUSK**

Jeremy slouches, literally down in the dumps.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
So relax, and smell the roses!

Jeremy smells something awful. He peers around the dumpster. A HOMELESS GUY, pants down, is taking a dump.

**EXT. MALL PARKING LOT - DAY**

**SUPER: "VALENTINES DAY"**

Sad sack Jeremy meanders, knuckles practically dragging on the ground.

He has a black eye and a jewelry box. Just the right size for a wedding ring.

Shuffling through the parking lot, he heads to the location where the Blood Donation Trailer had been.

And it's back!

Elated, Jeremy rushes over to:

**EXT. TRAILER - DAY**

The sign reads: "OPEN." He knocks on the door.

Zina opens it.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
You've survived happiness and  
heartache... so if your love is  
true, now is the time to give the  
gift that symbolizes eternity.

He kneels before her and opens the ring box. A massive diamond sparkles inside!

Zina practically drools over the ring.

Lab Tech appears behind her, wears an expression of disapproval. She shoves him in the bathroom, locks the door.

She crooks her finger at Jeremy to enter.

As she shuts the door behind him, Zina turns the sign around, so it reads: "CLOSED."

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
In the words of the poet John  
Dryden, 'When beauty fires the  
blood, how love exalts the mind!'

**INT. TRAILER - DAY**

Jeremy takes Zina in his arms at last! He presses against her breasts, as she nuzzles his neck and gives him a playful bite. He's so giddy, so in love. It's clear she feels it too.

She tosses the box and puts on the ring. Admires the sparkle.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
...And know that with the right  
partner... true love never dies!

As they move apart to stare in each other's eyes, Jeremy's neck shows several sets of puncture marks and a trickle of blood.

Zina smiles, exposes her vampire fangs.

**FADE TO BLACK**