

DEATH TO SMOOCHY

Sheldon's DOORBELL RINGS.

He walks over to the door and opens it. To his surprise,
Nora is standing there.

NORA
May I come in?

SHELDON
Sure.

Nora enters. She seems a little wobbly. Sheldon notices
she's holding a pint of whiskey.

SHELDON
Uh... are you okay?

NORA
I'm getting drunk and I'm not used
to it.

SHELDON
Oh. Well, not to make you feel
worse, but with alcohol you're
also consuming empty calories.

Nora looks at him for a moment.

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NORA
It's just that... I want to
apologize, actually. And on those
rare occasions when I feel the
need to apologize for something,
it helps if I'm, you know... shit-
faced.

SHELDON
Wow. I'm honored.

Nora trips slightly. Sheldon takes the whiskey from her.

SHELDON
Why don't we get some air?

He leads her out on the balcony. They look out at the
city.

NORA
I... I may have been a little
harsh when we spoke the other day.
A little out of line.

SHELDON

Well, it wasn't as bad as the week before when you called me a pasty-faced, no-talent hack.

NORA

Yes, that was probably insensitive as well.

(looks at him)

I heard you're not doing the ice show. I find that... incredibly admirable. Why didn't you tell me?

SHELDON

I guess I didn't want to spoil your fun. You look so content when you're berating me.

Nora looks down.

NORA

I'm afraid I have become a bit hardened over the years. Sincerity's an easy disguise in this business. It's hard to know who's on the level.

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CONTINUED:

SHELDON

Believe me, I'm learning that more and more every day.

(wistfully)

'Sometimes light is really dark,
Sometimes crows can sing like
larks

Sometimes Winter feels like
Spring,

Don't think you know everything.'

NORA

(in disbelief)

'Rickets the Hippo'?

SHELDON

You remember Rickets?

NORA

That was my favorite show when I was a kid. Rickets was the one face I knew I could trust.

SHELDON

That's how I felt! Rickets had

real depth. He was my inspiration for Smoochy.

NORA

Really? He was my inspiration to work in children's television.

SHELDON

I can't believe it. I never met anyone who even remembers Rickets. Do you remember the Klunky-Wunky dance?

NORA

Remember it? I did it at my first communion.

Sheldon starts doing the rather insane-looking Klunky-Wunky dance. Nora does it with him. They both stop and look at each other. Sheldon impulsively leans in and kisses her.

SHELDON

I'm sorry. That was a mistake, right? I didn't mean for that to hap--

Nora grabs his head and pulls it toward her. They begin kissing passionately.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

NORA

(as they kiss)
You're not full of shit like all the others, are you?

SHELDON

No, no.

NORA

(as they kiss)
You're for real, right?

SHELDON

Yes, yes.

NORA

(through the kisses)
I mean, I couldn't tell... First I thought it was an act... and then I just thought you were a simp or something...

SHELDON

Shhh... you don't have to
explain...

They continue to kiss. Nora abruptly stops.

 NORA
I should go.

 SHELDON
Why?

Nora exits the balcony and collects her coat and purse.

 SHELDON
What's wrong? Is it the whiskey?
If you have to throw up, be my
guest. Anywhere you like.

 NORA
It's just getting late.

Sheldon follows her to the door. She stops and looks at
him for a moment. The PHONE starts to RING. Neither of
them says anything for a beat.

 NORA
Better get that. Good night.

She exits. Sheldon shuts the door and sighs. He goes to
the bar to pour himself another orange juice

DEATH TO SMOOCHY (2)

INT. NORA'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

On Nora's TV screen, we see the black and white image of Rickets the Hippo doing the "Klunky-Wunky Dance." Nora sits on the couch and stares hypnotically at the screen. There is a KNOCK at the door. She gets up and ejects the "Best of Rickets" tape. She opens the door. To her surprise, Randolph is standing there.

RANDOLPH
Hiya, cutie!

Before she can respond, he enters the apartment and takes off his jacket.

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RANDOLPH
So here's the good news: Yes, I'll be happy to end my sabbatical and return to my old slot. I know you and Frank are in a bind, so I'll start Monday. Call wardrobe, call props, tell 'em the R man is back and he's ready to start whistlin' dem happy tunes for da little chillens.

He flops down on the couch.

RANDOLPH
Ahhh. Who do ya gotta blow to get a Scotch around here?

He laughs.

NORA
You've got three seconds to pry your ass off my couch and get out.

Randolph jumps to his feet.

RANDOLPH
Dammit, Nora! The rhino's gone! You need that slot filled and I'm ready to reclaim what's rightfully mine.

NORA
Just in case you forgot, you're a criminal and a scumbag.

RANDOLPH

Okay, so maybe I commandeered a stray shekel or two. Big deal! Compared to what Smoochy did that's like jerking off in the supermarket.

NORA
Where do you shop?

Randolph walks over and puts his hands on her shoulders.

RANDOLPH
Come on. Have you lost all affection for me? After what we once had?

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CONTINUED:

NORA
That was a long time ago. I was young and stupid.

RANDOLPH
Why we broke up I'll never know.

NORA
You turned into an asshole and I didn't love you.

RANDOLPH
We could've worked through all that.

He leans in to kiss her and she shoves him away so violently he almost falls over the coffee table.

RANDOLPH
Damn it, Nora! The public is clamoring for me! I'm a fucking patriot! Mopes is a Nazi! He's evil! He's probably even gay! You should've seen the way he was checking me out in the car!

NORA
(suddenly suspicious)
What does that mean?

RANDOLPH
What does what mean?

NORA
You said he was checking you out in the car. What car?

RANDOLPH

No... it's just a vibe! A Nazi
homosexual vibe! It emanates from
the television! The whole Smoochy
costume... with the erect horn...
I mean, what's that all about?

Nora starts to walk closer to him. He backs up.

NORA

You're talking awfully fast,
Randolph.

RANDOLPH

I still love you! Let's go on a
date!

(CONTINUED)

66.

CONTINUED:

NORA

Were you at that rally? Tell me!
Did you have something to do with
this?

She backs him against the wall and looks him in the eye.

NORA

Did you set Sheldon up?

Randolph just looks at her.

RANDOLPH

You know, now I remember why we
broke up. Always with the
accusations. Bitch, bitch,
bitch...

Nora hauls off and punches him in the jaw.