

LOVE LICKS ALL WOUNDS

Written by

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Based on a true story

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INT. CORPORATE CONFERENCE ROOM-NIGHT

CLICK. On an overhead projector screen...corporate jargon.

CLICK. More corporate jargon.

CLICK. The lights come on.

Men and women in suits, around a long table. MICHAEL, mid-thirties, tall, blond, vivid blue eyes, grins at them.

Clock CHIME. 21.00 hours.

MICHAEL

Let's chew on this over the
weekend, unless off course
(beat)
some of us have a life?

Amused LAUGHTER as everyone files out.

Michael works on his laptop for a few minutes.

AMY (V.O.)

So...who's the lucky lady tonight?

Amy, striking, mid-twenties, is perched at the end of the table. Sexy bare stilettoed legs...a red rose between her fingers. Seductive gaze. Familiarity.

Michael smiles. Gives her the 'Darling, not tonight' look. He continues working. Ignores Amy.

Sound of heels walking to the door. Amy blows him a kiss.

Michael looks up in surprise. He'd forgotten about Amy. The door shuts behind her receding footsteps.

The rose lies discarded, on the table.

Michael gathers his things. Picks up the rose on his way out.

INT. PET STORE- MOMENTS LATER

Michael surveys the store decorated with heart balloons.

A cracked, glass bowl catches his eye. He looks sad.

INT. SHABBY LIVING ROOM- FLASHBACK-DAY

Michael's drunk, angry Father, threatens Michael, age five, sprawled on the floor...next to him, a broken glass bowl.

Michael whimpers and cringes...bleeding cuts.

FLASHBACK ends.

INT. MICHAEL'S CAR-MINUTES LATER

Traffic light. Michael smiles at a goody basket hamper in the passenger seat. His expression softens as he thinks back.

EXT. DESERTED WILDERNESS-FLASHBACK

A scrawny puppy with bloody wounds huddles on a dirt track.

A car screeches to a halt.

INT. CAR-FLASHBACK-MINUTES LATER

Michael, mid-twenties, grins at the overhead mirror. His companion, a lovely young girl peeks over the back-seat. The puppy, wrapped in a blanket, stares with big soulful eyes.

YOUNG MICHAEL
He looks like a Slobby!

GIRL
Pets are a huge commitment.

YOUNG MICHAEL
Commitment is my middle name babe!

Michael winks... slaps her thigh. She SQUEALS. They LAUGH.

FLASHBACK ends.

INT. MICHAEL'S HOUSE- NIGHT-LATER

Unsteady CLICKING of claws on tiles. Excited PANTING. Michael nuzzles SLOBBY'S grey whiskered face...tucks the rose into his collar. Gently kisses Slobby's nose.

MICHAEL
Happy valentine's day, Slobs.

Slobby licks him...happily inspects the goody basket hamper.

THE END