Oats & Honey

by Rishi Vaja

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INT. BEDROOM - DAWN

ALARM CLOCK RADIO by the side of the bed shows the time is 4.59AM...5AM. The radio clicks to life.

A hand slams it on snooze. ROSS lumbers out of bed, half asleep, he stubs his toe on the dresser.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ross is going through the motions like he's still asleep. He puts shaving foam on his toothbrush and starts brushing. He spits it out.

INT. BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ross puts on his jeans...only to realise he's put them on back to front. He lets out a large sigh.

EXT. HOUSE / GARAGE DOOR - MORNING

It's a cold morning. Ross opens the garage door to reveal a small MARKET STALL on wheels. Its covered up. He pulls the stall out of the garage...

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

...and drags it up a steep hill. He is struggling with it until he reaches...

EXT. QUEEN'S MARKET - MORNING

The market is already buzzy with various market folk setting up their stalls.

Ross reaches his pitch, huffing and puffing. As he is about to unravel the cover to his stall, he eyes JESSICA standing next to her market stall which is opposite to his.

Jessica's DAD is busy setting up the stall which sells VALENTINE DAY CARDS and TEDDY BEARS.

Ross sheepishly waves at her. Jessica smiles and is about to wave back when --

DAD

Jessica! Go get some more stock!

Jessica duly leaves. Dad looks at Ross disapprovingly, grunts, looks him up and down, muttering.

Ross is visibly shaken by Dad's behaviour and carries on setting up his stall.

In one fluid action, he whips off the cover to his stall to reveal an AMAZING WILLY WONKA-STYLE COOKIE STALL with brights lights and cookies all HEART-SHAPED with different sweet toppings.

Fellow market workers "oohhh" and "aaahhh" at his stall. Dad looks on unimpressed. Jessica returns with more stock and upon seeing the cookie stall, drops them on the floor.

EXT. QUEEN'S MARKET / COOKIE STALL - LATER

As the day progresses, no one is buying the cookies, no matter how hard Ross tries to sell them. People stop, have a look and then move on - much to Ross' disappointment. Jessica watches but is helpless as people keep buying from her stall and Dad forcefully orders her about.

Another person walks past the cookie stall. Ross shrugs and looks for another customer. Jessica is sadden by this. Catching Ross' gaze she picks up a teddy and walks towards him. He notices her, takes a deep breath, grabs a heart-shaped cookie and moves to her.

Just then, a RIOT starts. A mob of hooded youths descend upon the market, destroying everything in their path.

Stalls are smashed, fire bombs thrown, valuables taken.

Dad reacts by trying to protect his stall.

DAD

Help me Jessica!

Through the carnage, Ross and Jessica's gazes remain fixed as they fight their way towards each other.

Behind him, Ross' stall is obliterated.

He forces his way to Jessica.

Jessica ignores the chaos around her.

Riot police throw gas cannisters. Rioters pelt bricks and bottles.

Ross and Jessica finally meet in the middle.

They stand there in the pandemonium, oblivious to everything around them. She gives him the teddy. He gives her the last remaining heart-shaped cookie. They kiss.

ROSS

Happy Valentines Day.

THE END