

Pre-posal

By

Rick Conti

Rick Conti
32 Stedman Street
Chelmsford, MA 01824
USA
rickcontix@gmail.com

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Beautiful, bubbly, overly made-up LISA, 29, is bundled in warm clothes and holds a microphone. She is surrounded by a rambunctious mob of onlookers held back by a rope.

The people in the crowd represent a wide range of ages, but they all wear warm clothes. Many hold signs decorated with hearts and bearing slogans such as: "BE MY VALENTINE", "I LOVE YOU, LISA", "HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY", "HI MOM AND DAD".

Lisa addresses the camera as she speaks into her mike.

LISA

Thanks, Mike. I'm outside the studio now and I have to tell you that love is definitely in the air!

The crowd goes wild, shouting and waving signs. When crowd members come into view, they wave toward the unseen camera.

LISA (cont'd)

It may be chilly outside, but love is keeping everyone warm. Let's see how people are doing on this Valentine's Day.

Lisa addresses an elderly couple, JEAN and VIN, who stand at the rope.

LISA (cont'd)

I hear that you two have a reason to celebrate today.

JEAN

That's right, Lisa. Today is our sixtieth anniversary.

Cheers from the crowd.

VIN

Yup, twenty-five of the happiest years of my life.

Jean gives him a sharp elbow to the ribs.

VIN (cont'd)

I'm kidding! She's the love of my life. I wouldn't trade her for anyone... unless you're available, Lisa.

He laughs but gets a good-natured elbow anyway. They kiss.

LISA
 Maybe I should move on so that they
 make it to sixty-one! I'm told
 there's someone else here who wants
 this to be a very special
 Valentine's Day. Where's Tim?

TIM is a scrawny 32-year-old with glasses and prematurely thinning hair. He stands next to ELLEN, a gorgeous younger woman. Tim waves his hands at Lisa and she draws near.

LISA
 Tim, what was it you wanted to say?

Tim faces Ellen, kneels down, takes her hand, and kisses it.

TIM
 Ellen, will you marry me?

The crowd breaks out into oo's, aah's, and a smattering of applause. Ellen gawks, slack-jawed, at Tim. Her icy look is anything but love-struck.

Her silence lasts long enough to silence the crowd, too. Lisa looks distressed. At long last, Ellen smashes the silence with a shriek.

ELLEN
 Are you nuts? It's our first
 date! And I only came on a dare!

A panicked Lisa tries to take control.

LISA
 Mike, back inside to you. This is
 Lisa --

Ellen snatches the mike away. Lisa unsuccessfully tries to wrest it back from her. Lisa walks toward the camera.

ELLEN
 (to camera)
 People, I barely even know this
 guy.
 (to Tim)
 If you think proposing to me on
 live TV is gonna force me to say
 yes, you can go --

Lisa covers the camera lens with her hand.

BLACK OUT

THE END