

The Roses of St. Valentine

by

Geno Andrews

Geno Andrews
4240 Lost Hills Rd # 1704
Calabasas, CA
818 880 1544

FADE IN:

EXT. FRENCH RIVIERA - RESTAURANT VERANDA - EARTH - NEAR DAWN

TWO YOUNG LOVERS speak in soft tones over wine and a small lit candle.

A DARK FIGURE walks the streets below. He carries a VIOLIN CASE. AT THE BASE OF THE RESTAURANT WALL the DARK FIGURE, wearing sniper's fatigues, ties together ropes, carabiners and repelling gear.

HE SCALES the wall of the restaurant effortlessly. Undetected, he positions himself on the veranda, in the darkness some twenty yards from the couple.

He opens his gear bag, pulls out a miniature computer, flips a tiny switch and the screen comes to life.

The couple converse on screen as if a small camera were hovering in front of them. Digital statistics read: Names, height, weight, age, etc.

THE VIOLIN CASE IS OPENED TO REVEAL a high powered, double-barreled, assault crossbow. Gloved hands pull it gently from the case.

A BLACK VELVET BOX IS OPENED TO REVEAL two shiny GOLD TIPPED ARROWHEADS.

The DARK FIGURE screws the tips into the shafts of his arrows.

He flips a switch on the keypad, which starts a countdown. 59, 58, 57, 56.

He whispers into his mini headset microphone.

DARK FIGURE
I'm in position.

The DARK FIGURE flips up the site on the bow.

THROUGH THE SCOPE we see their lips are almost touching. The sun is just starting to introduce daybreak. TWO SMALL RED LASER BEAMS dance across their faces.

The DARK FIGURE takes dead aim. Urging them.

DARK FIGURE
Closer...closer...

As their lips touch HE SQUEEZES THE TRIGGER.

BLAM!!! A jolt of ELECTRICITY ZAPS across the sky. The arrows cut through the night, and in perfect synchronicity, pierce through the hearts of the two young lovers.

MUSIC STARTS. Glorious, triumphant. SWIRLING CLOUDS of beautiful PINKS AND REDS surround the couple.

Like molten lava, the arrows mysteriously melt into their chests.

THE WOMAN CLUTCHES THE TABLECLOTH like bed sheets.

The jolting ceases and their kissing increases to the beat of exhilarated heart rates.

The DARK FIGURE hovers directly over them.

THE WOMAN'S POV: He is like a ghost, not quite definable to the human eye.

The woman catches a glimpse of the silver HEART SHAPED MEDALLION that hangs from his neck.

The clouds dissipate, the kissing continues and the man in the night is gone.

OPENING CREDITS OVER

A MONTAGE OF SIMILAR LOVE
HITS:

CUPID SCANS THE GLOBE uniting lovers in this same fashion. Italy, France, Australia, Japan, Germany, etc. He is tireless, emotionless and entirely professional. Always a count down. Always a direct hit. Always the furious passion to follow.

He encounters a small glitch in China when he unites a 7 year old Prince in an arranged marriage. But all in all, he is the love hit man for the modern age.

Cupid stands amidst the SWIRLING CLOUDS of beautiful PINKS AND REDS as a young couple in Peru kiss passionately. Reflected light dances off his HEART SHAPED MEDALLION.

EXT. ART HISTORY MUSEUM - NEW YORK CITY - DAY ESTABLISHING

INT. ART HISTORY MUSEUM - SAME

TALL CEILINGS, BEAUTIFUL LIGHTING. SCULPTURES, PAINTINGS and HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS.

A CROWD OF ART ENTHUSIASTS gathers for the afternoon tour through the GREEK MYTHOLOGY WING of the museum.

MARY DELAWARE, mid thirties, professional, sharp and naturally beautiful, ADJUSTS HER LAPEL MIC.

A long corridor is lined with ANCIENT PAINTINGS depicting the romantic story of CUPID and PSYCHE.

MARY HOLDS A SCRIPT ON A CLIPBOARD and stands in front of the crowd and commands their attention. Whispers and talking are hushed.

NINE YEAR-OLD VALENTINE WOODSWORTH, makes her way through the crowd for her usual front row view of the tour. SHE DRESSES CASUALLY and HOLDS IN HER ARM a book about Greek mythological lovers. A ROSE IS IN HER OTHER HAND.

THE LIGHTS DIM. Valentine watches and listens with excitement as Mary leads the tour.

INTERCUT:

A PAINTING OF ZEUS AND APHRODITE depicts them sitting majestically on their thrones.

MARY (V.O.)

Eros, better known as Cupid was the son of Aphrodite and Zeus. He was a mischievous, Greek god with the power to unite humans in "Forever Love" by shooting them with his gold-tipped arrows.

EXT. ANCIENT DAYS - SIDE STREET BEHIND A CATHEDRAL - DAY

Cupid sneaks up on a young couple, wearing tunics and touching each other behind a cathedral. Without them noticing he fires his old style bow and pierces their hearts. They begin kissing madly and Cupid disappears with a smile.

BACK TO MUSEUM TOUR

MARY

Some believe he was simply enchanted with the human heart, others say he had the gift of "Love's Insight."

THE CROWD MOVES TO A PAINTING OF APHRODITE ENRAGED

MARY (V.O.)

The beautiful Princess Psyche made a mistake one day...

EXT. ANCIENT DAYS - A GRASSY FIELD - DAY

The beautiful Princess Psyche speaks with her maidens. They brush her hair and pamper her.

MAIDEN 1

(to Psyche)

Is it not possible that your beauty rivals that of even the Goddess Aphrodite?

MAIDEN 2

Yes, Princess, without a doubt, Aphrodite's appearance is likened more to a cow than to thine own beauty.

PSYCHE

Your words flatter me. But one can not judge one's own beauty.

She glances into her hand held mirror admiringly.

BACK TO MUSEUM TOUR

MARY

When Aphrodite heard of the increasing admiration of the Princess' beauty, she was enraged. She conspired with her son.

INT. A CASTLE - ANCIENT DAYS - DAY

Aphrodite and the young Cupid sit at a table drinking wine and plotting.

She smiles a devilish smile, opens her hand and blows some magic pixie dust into the air.

APHRODITE

The Princess Psyche must be taught a lesson. When she sleeps, I want you to bury your arrow deep into her heart and as she awakes, make sure the first being she sees is a hideous trog.

BACK TO MUSEUM TOUR

MARY

Aphrodite believed that if the Princess were to fall eternally in love with a ghoulish creature, this would be the appropriate penance for her wrongful self-admiration.

THE CROWD MOVES TO A PAINTING OF CUPID TRIPPING ON HIS BOW

MARY (V.O.)

What Aphrodite never planned on...

EXT. ANCIENT DAYS - GRASSY FIELD - EARLY EVE

CUPID SNEAKS up on the Princess Psyche who lay sleeping in the cool grass.

In the distance a hideous creature awaits a glance from the awakening Princess.

CUPID RAISES HIS BOW to shoot her and she rolls over in the grass. CUPID IS CAPTIVATED by her beauty. He slowly lowers the bow as he stares at the Princess.

He steps toward her and clumsily trips on his bow and falls atop his own arrow.

SHE STIRS MOMENTARILY and as he looks into her face he falls eternally in love. AS SHE BEGINS TO AWAKE he becomes fearful of what has happened and runs off unseen.

BACK TO MUSEUM TOUR

MARY

Cupid returned to his mother and told her that her wishes had been carried out. For months to follow, Cupid would come to the Princess in the night to be with her, but he made her promise that she could never see his face. His identity must always be kept secret. As their love affair continued...

EXT. ANCIENT DAYS - GRASSY FIELD - DAY

The Princess Psyche speaks again with her curious maidens.

MAIDEN 1

He comes to you in the night. Loves you till sunrise but never are you permitted to see his face?

Wide eyed and giddy.

PRINCESS PSYCHE

Is it not so mysterious?

MAIDEN 2

How know you for sure it is not a hideous trog who shares your bed in the night?

PSYCHE
Because I know!

INT. PSYCHE'S COTTAGE - NIGHT

The Princess sneaks from her bed leaving her lover sleeping.

Moments later she returns with a lamplight. As she shines it on her lover's face, she is warmed and relieved to see the beautiful face of Eros, (Cupid) the son of Aphrodite.

Cupid awakes and rebukes her for breaking her promise.

He clothes himself as she begs him not to leave. He disappears into the night.

BACK TO MUSEUM TOUR

MARY
Cupid broke all contact with her.
Desperate to find him, she went to his mother. When Aphrodite learned she had been lied to she swore revenge on her son and the Princess. Aphrodite made a promise to the Princess.

INT. THE THRESHING FLOOR OF A GRANERY - ANCIENT DAYS - MORNING

A ten-foot tall pile of mixed grains almost reaches the ceiling of the threshing room.

Aphrodite paces the floor as she speaks to the Princess Psyche.

APHRODITE
Cupid told me himself, that if by morning you might separate this mountain of grain into three piles of corn, rye and barley, he will forgive you and take you back.

Aphrodite slams the door and leaves the Princess alone.

She kneels down and begins separating the grains one by one. The ominous task overwhelms her.

BACK TO MUSEUM TOUR

MARY
The Princess worked through the night making little to no progress. Discouraged and exhausted she fell asleep.

She never saw the ants that appeared.
They magically worked through the night
to separate the grain.

THE CROWD MOVES TO A PAINTING OF ANTS WORKING WHILE THE
PRINCESS SLEEPS

MARY

No one knows for sure why the ants helped
her. Some say it was Cupid who willed
it, others say Zeus took pity on her.
But when Aphrodite came back the next day
to pronounce her judgement, she couldn't
believe that the task had been completed.

VALENTINE GAZES AT A PAINTING OF THE WITCH OF THE UNDER WORLD

INT. THRESHING ROOM FLOOR - ANCIENT TIMES - MORNING

APHRODITE

There is one more thing Princess. Find
the Queen of the Underworld. She has a
casket of power and magic that belongs to
me. Bring it to me, and I will bring
Cupid to you.

BACK TO MUSEUM TOUR

MARY

Psyche hadn't a clue as to where the
entrance to the Underworld was. But a
happenstance meeting with Orpheus, who
had just returned from there, showed her
the way. Aphrodite knew that even if the
Princess were to find the Queen, she
would never come back alive.

INT. A DARK CAVERN - THE UNDERWORLD

Cave Torches. Shadows. Rats. The innocent Princess Psyche
stands before Persophone, the Queen of the underworld.

PERSOPHONE

And what is your bidding with me?

PSYCHE

The goddess Aphrodite sent me here to
retrieve a casket of magic.

PERSOPHONE

The casket is this.

She hands the Princess a small box.

PERSOPHONE

But do not open it. It is a gift for the goddess Aphrodite, and for her alone.

BACK TO MUSEUM TOUR

MARY

But as soon as the Princess returned to the surface, her curiosity overcame her. She opened the box and was immediately overtaken by a spell meant for Aphrodite. The spell put the Princess into an eternal sleep. When Cupid received word that his Princess Psyche had been put to sleep, he wept for her, and was ashamed of his pride.

THE CROWD MOVES TO A PAINTING OF CUPID WEeping

MARY (V.O)

He knew that if he could pierce her body with his RED TIPPED ARROW, she would be freed from the curse. But his mother confiscated the red tipped arrow as punishment for his disobedience to her.

INT. ZEUS' JUDGES CHAMBER - ANCIENT TIMES - DAY

Cupid paces the floor begging for his father's help.

CUPID

I've said I was sorry, what else does she want?

ZEUS

Cupid, this is between you and your mother. The red tipped arrow you seek is for her to give. You must make arrangements with her.

BACK TO MUSEUM TOUR

MARY

The story goes that for centuries, Psyche slept. Until one day, Zeus took pity on his son, woke Psyche from her sleep and Cupid and Psyche were joined in "Forever Love" on Mount Olympus.

THE LIGHTS COME UP in the corridor and the people clap politely. Valentine is mesmerized. She looks at Mary with a gleam in her eye.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CUPID'S APARTMENT - SOMEWHERE IN THE FOREVERS - NIGHT

Cupid nurses a cocktail. He is half dressed in a TUX and sits on his couch with a bottle of Jack Daniel's.

His violin case rests on top of the glass coffee table in front of him.

He takes a long drink and places THE GLASS TUMBLER on the table. Longing.

CUPID

It's been four million, three hundred and eighty thousand days and nights. I REALLY miss you.

He brings his fingers to his lips and kisses them.

WE FOLLOW HIS FINGERS back to the surface of the coffee table where he gently touches the glass.

Just below the surface of the glass, Psyche sleeps in an eternal trance.

APHRODITE

Touching...

Aphrodite appears from the darkness. She wears a black evening dress. Her FINGERNAILS ARE PAINTED BLACK. She appears to be in her late forties and she is still strikingly beautiful and timeless.

Beginning to boil.

CUPID

What the hell are you doing here?!

APHRODITE

Is that anyway for a beloved son to treat his adoring mother?

CUPID

You've lost mother. And there's nothing you can do about it. I have remained true to my love. Forsaking all others.

He looks at Psyche

CUPID

Twelve centuries, and not a single miss.
Now that was the deal.

APHRODITE

Then I suppose you feel you've earned
this.

Aphrodite REVEALS A BLACK VELVET BOX.

She opens it to show the RED TIPPED ARROW.

Cupid is mesmerized. He holds his breath. He hasn't seen it
up close in centuries.

APHRODITE

If you are successful tomorrow...

CUPID

I will be...

APHRODITE

Then you have my word, Son...

(beat)

The Red Tipped Arrowhead will be yours.
Cross my heart... hope to die...

She crosses her breast with her long fingers as Cupid eyes
her suspiciously.

APHRODITE

See you at the party.

She moves toward the door to exit.

Through the heart.

APHRODITE

Oh, and for the record, I have no heart.
I can not die and I WILL NEVER GIVE YOU
THIS BOX!

She vanishes through the door. Cupid's anger rises.

EXT. WOODSWORTH HOME - EVENING - EARTH

An orange sky fades to blue outside the Woodsworth's simple
but quaint home.

An old Chevy truck sits like a faithful dog in the driveway.

INT. DINING ROOM - SAME