

CHERUB

Written by

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EXT. NIGHT SKY - NIGHT (DUH)

In the style of "It's A Wonderful Life", two stars talk to each other.

STAR 1
Hark Ossicles! Another soul is set
to fall in love any day now!

STAR 2
Hark, Gabriel! To whom am I
charged?

STAR 1
A young man by the name of Kyle
Barker! Now, descend Ossicles &
bring love to the heart of man.

The camera pans down past titles that say "Ten" "Years"
"Later".

EXT. DENNY'S - NIGHT

We pan down past a Denny's sign to the front door opening.
SAMANTHA, a woman in her twenties, leaves the building.
Followed by KYLE, late twenties. They pause outside the
restaurant.

SAMANTHA
Well, thank you for
(she glances back at
Denny's)
Dinner.

KYLE
Yeah, sure thing.

Beat.

KYLE (CONT'D)
Is that you parked there?

SAMANTHA
Yeah.

Beat.

KYLE
Well, nice to meet you.

Kyle walks away.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Kyle walks through the street. He gets a call.

KYLE

Julie!

INTERCUT - INT. APARTMENT/EXT. STREET

JULIE

You took her to Denny's, Kyle?

KYLE

Yeah. Is something wrong with that?

JULIE

No... It just reflects poorly on me when I say, "you and this guy would be great together". And then, you take her to Denny's.

KYLE

What? Denny's is good!

JULIE

No, it's not.

KYLE

Regardless, it doesn't matter. It wasn't a good fit.

JULIE

What? Why?

KYLE

She's a hiker.

JULIE

What does that have to do with anything?

KYLE

Well, it's just I'm not trying spend the rest of my life with someone making me hike all the time.

Julie SIGHS.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Is this why you called? To sigh at me?

JULIE
(muttering)
Well, it's not like you'd call me.

KYLE
What?

JULIE
Nothing. Just don't expect me to
set you up with anyone from now on.

KYLE
Fine with me, Julie! Fine with me.

The camera watches him voyeuristically.

KYLE (CONT'D)
In fact, consider this my formal
resignation from looking for love,
in general.

He walks off into the night. As his voice fades, we hear
labored breathing.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Kyle opens the door to his place. A PATTERNING of tiny
footsteps as if something ran through the door. Kyle looks at
the floor. He shrugs it off.

He hangs up his jacket and hears what sounds like the cutting
of paper. He moves towards the sound. It's coming from his
bedroom.

Paper hearts are scattered, in a trail, on the ground. He
follows them to his bedroom. He hears the closet door creak.
He pulls back the door peeking into the closet. As he opens
it, the top of the door comes into view.

He doesn't notice but, something is perched there. Glistening
eyes and a giant pair of glinting scissors.

Another SNIP and a shred of paper falls down, brushing his
cheek. Kyle looks up and FREAKS. He makes a break for the
other room. Slipping on one of the paper hearts. It goes
black.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Kyle wakes up bound with rope and gagged in a chair. Around the corner of the couch, Kyle sees tiny hands decorating a shoe box with construction paper hearts. A tiny quiver with a single arrow poking out sits next to it.

Kyle tries to scoot towards the door. The chair squeaks.

The hands stop cutting hearts.

Kyle's eyes widen as he watches the mystery creature round the corner. The unseen creature creeps closer and closer to Kyle. Until, it hops up on his lap. We can only see what looks like the backside of a disgusting baby.

The baby reaches up and pulls the gag out of Kyle's mouth. He secures it on his crotch. We see the CHERUB in all his glory. Recessed beady eyes, jagged lonesome teeth spread across a gaping smile. He speaks in a high-pitched, gargled voice.

CHERUB

Hello Kyle.

Kyle's frozen.

CHERUB (CONT'D)

I am Ossicles, the Cherub, an angel tasked with helping humans fall in love. I'm assigned to you.

They stare at each other for a few moments.

CHERUB (CONT'D)

Go ahead. You can ask, if I'm a Cherub, why do I look like this? Why not a cutesy, dinky little baby angel? You can ask. Go ahead!

KYLE

Uh, why-. Why do you look like that?

CHERUB

(screaming)

Because of you!

Ossicles calms himself.

CHERUB (CONT'D)

Ten years ago. I was sent on my first mission to help you fall in love. And ten years, I've tried.

CHERUB (CONT'D)

Ten years on earth, corrupting my
cherubic form. Ten years, watching
your pathetic life unfold! Ten
years, goaded by the futile hope
you'll expend enough effort to fall
in love. Ten Years! Over today.

CHERUB lifts up the scissors. Kyle watches them.

KYLE

Oh okay, so you're here to help me
fall in love?

CHERUB

Way past that, Kyle. There's only
one way to be free now.

He snips the scissors. Kyle winces.

KYLE

Now, wait a moment here. You're
acting like I'm some sort of lost
cause. I'm still trying!

CHERUB

Ten dates in the last five years?
Eight out of ten at Denny's?

KYLE

It's a good place to eat.

CHERUB

No, it's not!

KYLE

Alright. It's conveniently located
so no matter where my dates from,
there's one halfway.

CHERUB

Oh yeah? Then, why you always
meeting at the same location Kyle?
It's hard to believe everyone of
them also lives a two minute walk
from Denny's!

Cherub points out the window at the Denny's located
immediately outside.

CHERUB (CONT'D)
"Consider this my formal
resignation from looking for love".
Who does that sound like, Kyle?

Cherub holds the scissors up to Kyle's throat.

KYLE
That was a joke! Really, I'm down
for anything. Shoot me with an
arrow, I don't care.

CHERUB
You don't think I've tried? I'm
down to my last one. Any effect an
arrow has, your sheer complacency
overpowers it!

KYLE
Complacent? No! I'm a slow mover! I
just need a little more time.

CHERUB
Time's up Kyle.

Cherub tightens the scissors, on Kyle's throat.

KYLE
Wait, wait, wait! There's a girl.

Cherub relaxes his grip.

KYLE (CONT'D)
She's like the one that got away!

CHERUB
Who?

Beat.

KYLE
Julie.

Beat.

CHERUB
Julie?

KYLE
Yeah.

CHERUB
Julie? From high school?

KYLE

Yeah.

CHERUB

There is absolutely no romantic chemistry there at all.

KYLE

That's because you haven't been looking for it!

The Cherub eyes Kyle skeptically.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Think about it! Been friends for years, both won't admit how we feel. A classic love story. I mean you like love, right?

CHERUB

I *live* for love.

KYLE

Okay!

Cherub thinks.

CHERUB

And it's not because she's the only girl you know?

KYLE

No.

Cherub looks at Kyle.

CHERUB

Okay then, we'll try it out.

KYLE

Awesome.

CHERUB

But you have to kiss her.

KYLE

What?

CHERUB

By midnight.

KYLE

What? Why? It's like 10 now!

CHERUB
If you kiss her and it's true love,
like you said, then, I'm freed!

KYLE
C'mon that can't be the only shape
this can take.

CHERUB
Well, I guess I could always: *Cut
your throat with scissors!*

Kyle considers his options.

INT. APARTMENT - LATER

Julie knocks on the door.

The Cherub is latched on to Kyle's back, beneath his
sweatshirt, poking his scissors into him.

Kyle opens the door.

KYLE
Julie!

JULIE
What's up?

Kyle goes in for a hug. It's clear this is not the typical
greeting. Kyle arches his back away so Julie can't feel the
Cherub.

KYLE
It's so good to see you.

JULIE
Yeah.

They stare at each other for a moment.

JULIE (CONT'D)	KYLE
Why you being weird?	Wanna watch a movie?

INT. COUCH - NIGHT

Kyle and Julie sit on the couch.

KYLE
What to watch? What to watch?

JULIE
I'm good with whatever.

KYLE
Hm! Roku fireplace? That sounds cozy.

CHERUB
Nice.

JULIE
You want to watch Roku Fireplace?

KYLE
We don't have to watch it, we could just put it on in the background. You know, talk.

Julie is confused and uncomfortable as Kyle puts on a Roku Fireplace stream. They sit in silence.

Cherub jabs him with the scissors.

KYLE (CONT'D)
Ow!

JULIE
What?

KYLE
Ow wow wow. You're looking good tonight.

JULIE
What is going on?

KYLE
I don't know.

It's quiet for a time. Then, we hear a faint song emerging from Kyle's jacket.

CHERUB
(singing)
A man! A man needs a woman! A woman, they needs a man! Tonight! TONIGHT! A man and woman... together! Love! Comes from a kiss! Kisses and love! A flower can kiss! A flower of love to bloom!

JULIE
What is that?

KYLE

I think my AirPods connected. Do you mind? I'm gonna go check on that! And also, I need to use the bathroom.

JULIE

...Sure.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Kyle walks into the bathroom.

KYLE

What was with that song, man?

The Cherub climbs out from under his jacket onto the counter.

CHERUB

I made it up.

KYLE

I know you made it up!

CHERUB

I'm trying to make her comfortable. You're being too aggressive.

KYLE

You can't tell me I'm too aggressive when you're actively threatening to kill me.

CHERUB

You've got to engage her emotionally. Or she won't kiss you.

Cherub waits for a confirmation.

CHERUB (CONT'D)

Okay?

KYLE

Okay.

CHERUB

Also, I gotta find a better vantage point. I can't see anything in there.

KYLE

Sure! Get a better vantage point.

CHERUB

Alright, so, when we go out there:
listen to her, engage her
emotionally, make a genuine
connection. Also, you have ten
minutes before I shoot you in the
head with an arrow.

INT. APARTMENT - LATER

Kyle nonchalantly leaves the bathroom, the cherub follows.
Kyle settles on the couch.

KYLE

Sorry about that.

The cherub scales the coat rack. He draws his bow, pointing
it straight at Kyle.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Roku fireplace, what the heck is
that? Let's just hang out. Let's be
us. We've been around the block,
huh?

Julie stares at him. Kyle checks the clock: 11:55.

KYLE (CONT'D)

You remember the first thing you
thought when you met me?

JULIE

No.

Kyle laughs, playfully touching her hand. She's doesn't like
it. He checks the clock 11:57.

KYLE

That's us.

JULIE

What are you talking about?

KYLE

I'm talking about us, Julie! All
these years, we've had this thing
going. And sitting here now with
you. I'm just glad you're here.

JULIE

Sure, I'm glad you're my friend
too.

Kyle watches the clock out of the corner of his eye. 11:59. Then, looks at the cherub, bow drawn.

Kyle braces himself then, goes in for a kiss. She recoils.

JULIE (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

KYLE
I don't know.

Julie shakes her head as she gets up to leave.

JULIE
You know this is the first time in like a year, you've asked me to hang out? Kyle, I send you funny videos and invite you to things and half the time you don't even respond. The only reason we still talk to each other is because of me and you're what, trying to make out with me?

Kyle takes this in.

KYLE
No.

Kyle notices the Cherub is now aiming at Julie.

KYLE (CONT'D)
No, no, no!

Cherub shoots her with an arrow. It embeds in the back of her shoulder. She sits back down, stunned. Her head slumps.

Kyle and the Cherub stare at her.

Then, she comes to, locking onto Kyle with a dreamy look in her eye.

JULIE
I love how your hat's like a little ripped there. It's really cool.

She leans in. Kyle looks at the Cherub, horrified.

CHERUB
Do it!

Kyle hesitates then, puts his arm around her. But, instead pulls the arrow out, tossing it down on the couch. Kyle stands up and backs away.

KYLE

I'm sorry, man. I can't do this. I don't want you to be stuck on earth, believe me. But, this is too weird. Obviously, I lied about us having feelings in any way that was remotely romantic. Our relationship is more like brother/sister, it's worse than that it's like... priest/nun!

Ossicles shakes in fury. He reaches for his scissors.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Think about it, man. If you murder me, they won't let you back into heaven!

The Cherub pauses. Looking at the scissors.

CHERUB

I don't care anymore! I. Just. Hate. You!

The Cherub launches himself through the air towards Kyle, scissors in hand.

He tackles Kyle to the ground. Trying to force the scissors into Kyle's eye socket.

KYLE

How are you so strong?

CHERUB

I'm a baby!

KYLE

What?

The scissors sink down towards Kyle's eye. Three inches, two inches, one-.

Suddenly, he stops.

The Cherub staggers back to reveal Julie standing behind him. The Cherub turns, his own arrow protruding from his back.

Kyle and Julie watch him stumble away. He swings the scissors around.

CHERUB

(starting to slur his
words)

I'll cut you! I'll cut you all!

He slumps against the wall, passed out.

They stare at him. Then, look at each other.

KYLE

Nice. Thank you.

JULIE

What is going on?

Kyle tries to figure out where to start.

CHERUB

Kyle!!!

They whip to look. The Cherub stands up shakily.

CHERUB (CONT'D)

I love you.

Beat.

KYLE

Thanks, buddy!

Kyle and Julie look at each other. The cherub HUMS as he opens up his Valentine box, rifling through various Valentines. He pulls one out and lifts it up, showing Kyle.

Kyle walks over, kicks him into the box and slams the top shut.

He wraps it shut with a ton of scotch tape.

CHERUB

I feel like a Valentine!

Kyle turns to Julie, now holding the box.

KYLE

It's a, uh, cherub.

INT. COUCH - LATER

Kyle and Julie sit on the couch.

KYLE

Hey, I'm sorry about tonight. And just in general, I haven't been great at being great. I'll reach out more.

JULIE

Thanks.

Kyle looks down at the box.

KYLE

Well, I don't really know what to do about this.

He gestures to the box. They sit for a moment.

JULIE

Well, I'm kind of starving.

KYLE

Yeah, I could eat.

JULIE

Sweet. Where?

Kyle looks out the window at the Denny's sign.

KYLE

What do you like?

CUT TO BLACK