

INT. TYLER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The apartment is tidy but lonely. A "Hang in there" poster of a cat features a rabbit instead.

TYLER COTTON (20s, a red-and-white rabbit) sits on his couch, illuminated by the harsh blue light of his smartphone. He is swiping left on a dating app called "CARROT & STICK."

ON PHONE SCREEN: Profile: BETSY BUNKER. Interests: Multiplying. Dislikes: Red fur.

Tyler sighs. SWIPE LEFT.

TYLER

Nope. Nope. Definitely nope.

He takes a sip of lukewarm carrot juice. He adjusts his glasses, trying to hype himself up.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Come on, Tyler. The algorithm is just math. Eventually, the variables have to align. Love is just... probability theory with better lighting.

He swipes again. Suddenly, the screen ERUPTS with digital confetti and airhorn sound effects.

IT'S A MATCH!

Tyler drops the phone. He fumbles to catch it, juggling it like a hot grenade before it lands safely on a throw pillow. He picks it up gently, as if it might explode.

ON SCREEN: Profile: JADE CHEEKS. Green and white fur. Stunning smile. Occupation: "Problem Solver."

TYLER (CONT'D)

(Whispering)

Jade... Cheeks. Wow. She's... she's out of my league. She's out of my species, and we're both rabbits.

A MESSAGE pops up: "*Dinner tonight? Le Lapin D'or. 8 PM. Don't be late. ;)*"

Tyler jumps up. He checks his reflection in the mirror. He attempts to flex a bicep. It is tragically non-existent.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Okay, Cotton. Game face. Do not mention your collection of antique spoons. Do not mention the lactose intolerance. Just... be cool.

He attempts a "cool" lean against the wall and immediately slips, knocking over a floor lamp.

CUT TO:

INT. LE LAPIN D'OR RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Fancy. Expensive. The kind of place where the water costs more than Tyler's rent. A piano player (a turtle) plays slow jazz.

Tyler sits alone at a table for two. The chair is slightly too big for him. He checks his watch. 8:15 PM.

A shadow falls over him. A very long, thin shadow.

Tyler looks up. And up. And up.

JEAN-LUC (40s), a towering PINK FLAMINGO waiter, stares down his beak at Tyler. Jean-Luc is balancing perfectly on one leg, holding a notepad with the tip of his hand. He looks bored.

JEAN-LUC

Alors... Monsieur is still... singular?

TYLER

She's coming! She's just... probably stuck in traffic. Or she got lost.

Jean-Luc makes a skeptical sound - a wet *pffft* noise with his beak.

JEAN-LUC

Bof. It has been twenty minutes. Perhaps the *mademoiselle*, she realized she had the better things to do? Maybe she is preening her feathers? Or perhaps she saw the sweater vest through the window and simply... evaporated.

TYLER

(Adjusting his vest self-consciously)

It's a vintage knit.

JEAN-LUC

It is a tragedy. But if you insist on occupying a prime table for two with a party of one... I will bring more bread. At least the carbs, they will never leave you.

Jean-Luc pivots gracefully on one leg like a ballerina and struts away.

Suddenly, the heavy oak doors of the restaurant BURST OPEN with a gust of wind.

JADE CHEEKS stands there. She looks windblown but immaculate. Her green and white fur seems to glow. Every head in the restaurant turns.

She walks toward Tyler. It's like slow motion. Tyler's jaw literally drops, hitting the tablecloth with a soft *thud*.

Jade slides into the seat opposite him. She smells like ozone and expensive perfume.

JADE

Sorry I'm late. There was a... situation. A penguin stuck in a tree. And the tree was on fire. And the fire was on the bridge.

TYLER

(Stunned)

I... uh... spoons.

Jade raises an eyebrow.

TYLER (CONT'D)

I mean... cool. Spoons are cool. I'm Tyler.

JADE

(Smiling warmly)

I know. You look exactly like your pictures, Tyler. Maybe even cuter. The red ears are distinct.

Tyler blushes so hard his white patches turn pink.

TYLER

And you look... incredible. Like, 4K resolution incredible.

INT. RESTAURANT - LATER (MONTAGE)

Upbeat, jazzy romantic score.

A) APPETIZER: A tiny carrot foam is served. Tyler looks confused. Jade eats hers in one polite bite. Tyler tries to eat his, misses his mouth, and gets foam on his nose. Jean-Luc (in the background) rolls his eyes so hard his whole head moves. Jade laughs - a musical sound - and gently wipes Tyler's nose with a napkin. Tyler melts.

B) SOUP: They are talking animatedly. Tyler is using wild hand gestures. He accidentally knocks a spoon off the table. ZIP. Before it hits the ground, Jade's hand BLURS. She catches it instantly and places it back. Tyler blinks, staring at the spoon. He looks at Jade. She just winks.

C) MAIN COURSE: Jade is eating a massive amount of salad with huge proteins

JADE

Metabolism. It runs hot.

Jean-Luc passes by, sees Jade's empty plate, and looks terrified. He quickly refills her water, trembling slightly.

D) THE JOKE

TYLER

So the lettuce says to the celery,
"Quit stalking me!"

Jade laughs so hard she accidentally squeezes her water glass. CRACK. The glass shatters in her grip. Water spills everywhere. The music stops.

JADE

(Fast)

Cheap glass. Very... brittle.

Jean-Luc rushes over with a towel, muttering.

JEAN-LUC

Mon dieu, the grip strength... it is unnatural...

END MONTAGE

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

The dessert course arrives. A chocolate lava cake. The atmosphere is heavy with romance and tension.

Jade looks nervous for the first time. She fiddles with her fork, bending the sturdy silver tines slightly without realizing it.

JADE

Tyler, I have to be honest with you.
This has been... the best date I've
had in years.

TYLER

Really? Better than the guy who
invented the self-peeling carrot?

JADE

Much better. You're genuine. You're
sweet. Which is why... I can't lie to
you.

Tyler's ears drop flat against his head. Panic sets in.

TYLER

Oh no. Here it comes. You're actually
a holographic projection? You're
married to a badger? You're allergic
to vintage sweater vests?

JADE

(Giggles)
No. Tyler... lean in.

Tyler leans in over the candle.

JADE (CONT'D)

(Whispering)
I'm a superhero.

Tyler stares at her. He blinks once. Twice.

TYLER

Like... you cosplay on weekends?
That's cool. I have a Han Solo costume
in my closet. I wear it for tax
season.

JADE

No. I mean, I have superpowers. I save
(MORE)

JADE (CONT'D)
the city. I'm *The Emerald Hare*.

Tyler sits back. He looks at her slender arms. He looks at her kind eyes.

TYLER
You? The Emerald Hare? The one who
threw a tank into the East River last
week?

JADE
It was a very bad tank.

TYLER
(Skeptical but smiling)
Jade, you're funny. But you don't have
to make up cool stuff to impress me.
I'm already impressed.

Jade sighs. She looks around. The coast is clear.

JADE
You don't believe me.

TYLER
I believe that you believe you're a
superhero. But physics is physics,
Jade. Mass times acceleration and all
that.

Jade smirks. It's a dangerous, playful smirk.

JADE
Check, please.

EXT. STREET BEHIND RESTAURANT - NIGHT

They walk out the back exit into a quiet, cobblestone
alleyway. The moon is full.

TYLER
Look, even if you aren't a superhero,
you're still a super girl in my book.

JADE
Tyler. Watch.

ABILITY 1: SUPER-SPEED

Jade vanishes. ZHOOM! A gust of wind spins Tyler around like

a top. His glasses go crooked. Jade reappears instantly in front of him, holding a distinct blue flower. Her hair hasn't moved.

TYLER
(Dizzy)
Where... did you go?

JADE
To the botanical gardens. Three towns over.

ABILITY 2: SUPER-STRENGTH

A massive delivery truck is parked, blocking their path.

TYLER
Ah, roadblock. We should go around.

Jade walks up to the truck. She taps the bumper. Then, with one hand - casually, like she's lifting a purse - she lifts the entire back end of the truck, pivots it ninety degrees, and sets it down gently. CLANG.

Tyler's glasses slide down his nose.

TYLER (CONT'D)
That... that's a heavy truck. That is not styrofoam.

ABILITY 3: LASER VISION

They pass a streetlamp that is flickering annoyingly. BZZT. BZZT. Jade glances up. Her eyes GLOW bright red for a split second. Two thin beams shoot out. ZAP! The streetlight welds instantly and shines perfectly bright.

TYLER (CONT'D)
(Voice high pitched)
You have laser eyes. You could have cooked me like a vegetable skewer during the appetizer.

JADE
I have excellent control.

ABILITY 4: THE BOUNCER

A large, angry BULLDOG BOUNCER steps out of a club door. He looks furious.

BOUNCER

Hey! Keep the noise down out here! Or
I'm gonna turn you two into lucky
rabbits' feet!

He steps toward Tyler aggressively. Tyler flinches, covering his face. Jade steps in between them. She doesn't look angry. She just flashes a smile. A literal DING sparkle appears near her cheek.

JADE

(Voice silky smooth)
Good evening, sir. Nice tie.

The Bouncer freezes. The aggression drains out of him instantly. His eyes dilute. He looks lovestruck.

BOUNCER

(Dreamy)
Uh... thanks. Have... have a wonderful
night.

He opens the door for them politely. Jade turns back to Tyler.

JADE

Super-Charm. It's actually more useful
than the lasers.

EXT. PARK BENCH - MOMENTS LATER

Tyler sits heavily on the bench. He is hyperventilating slightly. Jade sits next to him, looking concerned.

JADE

Tyler? Breathe. In through the nose,
out through the mouth.

TYLER

You're... real. You're her. You're
basically a goddess wrapped in green
fur.

JADE

(Sadly)
And this is the part where the guy
usually runs away. Or he gets insecure
because I can bench press his Honda
Civic.

She looks down at her hands.

JADE (CONT'D)

It's lonely, Tyler. People love the hero, but nobody dates the girl. No man wants a girlfriend who has to fly off during a movie to stop a meteor.

Tyler looks at her. He sees the vulnerability behind the power. He stops shaking. He straightens his sweater vest. He reaches out and takes her hand. His hand is shaking, but he holds on tight.

TYLER

Jade... look at me. I trip over flat surfaces. I'm afraid of loud noises. I have the upper body strength of a wet noodle.

Jade chuckles.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Pretty much everyone is tougher than me. So, the fact that you can shoot lasers? It's just a bonus.

JADE

(Hopeful)

You don't think I'm... too much?

TYLER

I think you're amazing. And honestly? It's kind of a relief. Because for the first time in my life, I don't have to pretend to be the "tough guy." You've got that covered. I can just be... Tyler.

Jade smiles. It's not her super-charm smile. It's a real one.

JADE

Tyler is exactly who I wanted.

THE KISS

They lean in. Jade kisses him. It's magical. Tyler's leg pops up in the classic romantic trope.

They pull apart. Tyler looks dazed and happy.

TYLER

Wow. Was that a super-kiss?

JADE
That was just a regular one.

TYLER
I'm gonna need a minute to reboot my
system.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Jade stands up and offers her hand.

JADE
You haven't seen the best trick yet.
Do you trust me?

TYLER
With my life. And my dignity. Which is
currently in shambles.

He takes her hand. Suddenly, gravity seems to turn off. Jade lifts off the ground, hovering a foot in the air. She pulls Tyler up with her. He floats weightlessly in her grip.

TYLER (CONT'D)
Oh my carrots. We're floating.

JADE
Hang on tight, Tyler Cotton.

EXT. SKY/ABOVE THE CITY - NIGHT

WHOOSH!

They streak upward. The city drops away beneath them. Tyler screams, but it turns into a laugh of pure exhilaration. Jade holds him securely.

They come to a stop hovering above the city, framed against a massive, bright full moon. The view is breathtaking - the city lights look like scattered jewels.

TYLER
I've lived here my whole life... I've
never seen it like this.

JADE
It's my favorite view. I wanted to
share it with someone special.

Tyler looks at Jade. Floating there, she looks like an angel.

TYLER
So... second date?

JADE
Definitely. But next time, we're
ordering pizza. No fancy forks.

TYLER
Deal. But I'm picking the movie.

JADE
As long as it's not a superhero movie.

TYLER
Why?

JADE
Because the costumes are always so
impractical. No pockets!

They laugh. They hover closer together in the moonlight.

TYLER
My girlfriend is a superhero.

JADE
And my boyfriend is a really great
guy.

They embrace in the air, spinning slowly as they kiss again,
silhouetted against the moon.

FADE OUT.

THE END