

Valium Times Day

Story By

Susan Sassi

Written By

Susan Sassi

&

Mage Lanz

SusanSassii@gmail.com
lanz.mage@gmail.com

EXT. PARK CAFE - DAY

VAL (28), an anxious mess that tries her best, in office casual, hurries across the park. She passes a child holding a red heart balloon, and shields her eyes away from it.

She sits at a picnic table across from DIANA (30), a tall brunette, plump and Kardashian-Esque. Diana's already eating lunch, slightly annoyed.

VAL
Sorry I'm late.

DIANA
You know if you stop working, you won't die.

VAL
I respectfully agree to disagree.

Diana scoots a bucket on the ground with her foot toward Val.

VAL (CONT'D)
What's that for?

Diana slaps a heart-shaped invitation on the table. It's covered in hearts and "I'd LOVE to invite you to my party!"

Val looks at the invitation, and vomits in the bucket.

VAL (CONT'D)
You know I can't stand V-day.

DIANA
That's what the bucket's for! Come on. It's my favorite holiday, you're my best friend.

VAL
No means no!

DIANA
But you've been in therapy for years! Maybe you're better now. You won't know unless you try.

Val taps the bucket with her foot.

VAL
That's a big fat nope.

DIANA

It was supposed to be a surprise,
but I found someone who's perfect
for you.

Val vomits in the bucket again.

VAL

Look, as long as I stay far away
from my triggers, I'm terrific!

DIANA

Pleeeeeease?

VAL

It's too dangerous.

DIANA

If it's really bad, I swear I'll
never bug you about it again. Just.
This. Once?

VAL

Fine. But only if you get everyone
to sign a liability waiver.

Diana laughs. Val looks dead serious.

DIANA

Really?

Val nods.

DIANA (CONT'D)

Well, fine then. Just print some
out, whatever you need.

Val takes the invitation and vomits again into the bucket.

DIANA (CONT'D)

Jesus Val, where does that come
from? You didn't even eat yet.

INT. HIGH RISE CONDO - NIGHT

Large windows overlook a sparkling city. SIMON (30s) a tech
bro, DOUG (30s), an asian James Bond, and a few other Guests
stand around sipping wine, and eat Whitman's chocolates.

Doug picks up one of the papers off the coffee table.

DOUG

Did you see what she made us sign?

SIMON
I didn't read it that closely. I
thought it was some kind of joke.

DOUG
It covers death, dismemberment,
decapitation... basically all the D
words.

SIMON
She likes the D!

Simon and Doug laugh.

Diana flings open the condo door, dragging Val by her hand.
Val clings to the doorway trying not to vomit.

DIANA
You can do this! You just need to
face your fears.

VAL
No! I can't!

DIANA
It's just Valentine's Day!

Val gags and dry heaves.

VAL
I'm not ready! I changed my mind!

DIANA
But I got six different brands of
chocolates! Everyone wants to meet
you!

Diana tugs hard, and yanks Val into the room.

Val's eyes go wide. She's assaulted by the paper hearts,
Valentine cards, pink and red candles, a vase of red roses.
She shakes, and vomits just as Diana hands her a bucket. She
collapses to the ground, crying and heaving.

Then she sees it. Right on the coffee table. A box of
Whitman's Sampler chocolates. Her internal self Hulks out.

Val stands, screams an inhuman bellow of rage. She grabs a
Guest wearing a heart sweater and chucks him across the room.

She flips the table, knocking Guests on the floor. They
SCREAM in pain and terror. The candles tip over, lighting
paper decorations on fire.

Val grabs the Whitman's box off the floor, seething in rage, and whips the box toward Doug's face like an Olympic discus.

INT. ACCOUNTING FIRM - VAL'S OFFICE - DAY

SUPER: ONE YEAR LATER

A Feng Shue'd office with red oak furniture. The tag on the door reads "Office of Val Yum, Founder and President".

On the wall are framed degrees, awards and achievements, like "Best Place to Work", and a magazine cover: "Who's Who of Female Execs Under Thirty"

Val, now with no make-up and resting anxiety face, sits working hard at her desk entering numbers from tax documents into a spreadsheet.

The office phone rings. The Caller ID reads "ALISTAIR". Val puts the call on speaker and continues working.

ALISTAIR (O.C.)

What do you mean you're going out of town?! It's tax season!

VAL

You know I do this every February fourteenth.

ALISTAIR (O.C.)

But that's why we started a goddamn accounting firm! There's nothing romantic about this place on any day of the year.

VAL

You agreed to this when we decided to go into business together. I even cut my salary to hire some temps.

ALISTAIR (O.C.)

It's gonna look bad when everyone is working until one a.m., and you're Instagramming daiquiris.

VAL

It's not a vacation. Remember the year I came back with malaria?

ALISTAIR (O.C.)

(suddenly quiet, sad)

Well, I had to try.

(MORE)

ALISTAIR (O.C.) (CONT'D)
Five temps can't equal... one you.
Why do you do this to me?

VAL
I'm doing this FOR you. TRUST me,
it's better for everyone.

ALISTAIR (O.C.)
Have you thought about trying shock
therapy again?

VAL
I'm hanging up.

ALISTAIR (O.C.)
You know, my offer still stands.
But I'm not going to wait for you
forever. Could we just try--

Val gags and quickly punches the phone buttons violently
until it hangs up. She bursts into tears.

She opens her desk drawer, revealing a pharmacy's worth of
anti-anxiety and anti-psychotic medication. She grabs a large
bottle of Valium, pops two in her mouth, and chews.

INT. ACCOUNTING FIRM - BREAK ROOM - DAY

Simon and Diana eat together in the break room. A different
Valentine's Day invitation is on the table between them.

SIMON
As long as Val's not coming, then
sure. Did the new cabinets come in?

DIANA
Yeah! We're still in the middle of
renovations, but the kitchen and
living area are all-

Val enters, heading toward the fridge. Diana spots her and
quickly hides the invitation.

Simon and Diana watch Val in silence as she takes her food
from the freezer, pops it into the microwave, and starts it.

The uncomfortable silence goes on another moment until Val
throws her hands up in the air.

VAL
I get it! Okay? For the millionth
time, I'm sorry!
(MORE)

VAL (CONT'D)
I'm gonna be far, far away from
here. So you can relax, and enjoy
your party.

Val sets a timer on her phone.

VAL (CONT'D)
I'll come back when my food is
done. Don't worry, I'll eat it in
my office.

Diana and Simon watch Val leave the kitchen.

INT. CAMPING SUPPLY STORE - NIGHT

Val shields her eyes from the "VALENTINE'S DAY SALE" sign as she enters the store.

"We Belong Together" plays over the loudspeakers, but Val can't hear it. Her bright orange earplugs block out everything but a low mumble.

She picks out a huge backpack, fills it with camping gear, clothes, and other supplies.

She takes everything to the checkout.

CLERK
Happy Valentine's Day! Did you
check out our Valentine's Day sale?

But to Val, it's all just mumbles. She nods.

Near the checkout, she spots a book - "Remote Off-The-Grid Secret Campsites". She hands it to the clerk to ring up.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAILHEAD - BUS STOP - DAY

A rickety old bus, full of goats, drives away to reveal a frowning, anxious Val, dressed like an ad for a camping supply store with her full pack.

Val crosses the road to the trailhead sign, "Lonely Mountain Trail: the least popular hiking trail in the world".

She walks a wooded path about 30 feet before she comes to a cave blocked with a pile of boulders. Confused, she checks her book of "Remote Off-The-Grid secret campsites".

She holds up the book. A picture shows the trail continues through the cave. She pulls the book down to reveal the same exact entrance, blocked off with boulders.

There is a boom of thunder. Val looks up and sees dark, ominous clouds approaching.

VAL

Fuck!

She tries to move the boulders, but they won't budge. She digs through her bags, tossing out tools.

She finds a camping shovel, and hits the rocks with it. She pulls out a trekking pole, and tries to use it as a lever, but it only bends in half. She pulls out an electric marshmallow toaster, examines it, and throws it violently against the rocks.

She gives up and heads back to the bus stop, checks the schedule: last bus at 2pm. She checks her watch. It's 2:15pm.

She looks up and down the road. Nothing but trees. She heads off in the direction the bus was headed.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Val approaches a small farming village of yurts and cottages that look like they belong in the 1800s. Besides some wandering goats, she doesn't see anyone around.

She approaches a quaint cottage. It has a picture of a bed on the hanging signboard. She knocks. No response.

INT. BED AND BREAKFAST - DAY

Val enters the cottage that time forgot. Fireplace for a stove, candles for lighting, no electricity or telephones. CLAUDETTE (20s), in a peasant blouse and floor-length skirt, stares out the window, with a distant far-off look in her eye, and hums creepily to herself.

VAL

Hello? Is there a place I can get
rain gear? And do you know another
way up the mountain?

Claudette doesn't move, just keeps humming.

VAL (CONT'D)

(a little louder)

Miss? Excuse me! I'm in a hurry. I
want to set up camp before the
storm hits.

Still nothing.

VAL (CONT'D)

HEY!

Val feels a "tap tap" of a finger on her shoulder, and spins around to find she is face to face with a man so handsome she instantly wants to vomit.

This is KILMER (20s), his face beaming in childlike joy.

KILMER

Welcome! I'm so happy you are here!

VAL

Have we met?

KILMER

No! But perhaps our souls did in another life! Wouldn't that be wonderful? Haha. I'm Kilmer.

VAL

Val.

KILMER

This quiet mouse over here is Claudette. She's deaf so she can't hear, even if you shout.

Kilmer runs over to Claudette, still humming and staring out the window. He picks her up and swings her around in a hug, making her giggle and blush.

NOTE: Claudette uses sign language, and occasionally speaks. Whenever anyone talks to Claudette, they use sign language and speak. Yes, everyone knows sign language, including Val.

KILMER (CONT'D)

I'd like you to meet Val.

Claudette's face drains of all joy until only murderous, scowl remains. She suddenly jerks out a carving knife.

KILMER (CONT'D)

See! She loves you! She wants to cut you a piece of her homemade friendship cake.

VAL

Or does she want to cut me into pieces and eat me like I'm cake?

KILMER

Haha. That's hilarious.

Kilmer, excited, takes the knife from Claudette and goes to get a cake out of an icebox. He slices a big piece, while Val does not dare take her eyes off Claudette.

VAL

I don't have time for this. Is there another way up the mountain? The trail is blocked.

KILMER

You can't go there.

VAL

Why not?

KILMER

Because you have to be here! And join our celebration festival honoring Saint Valentine. The God of Love and Joy!

Val recoils like she was punched in the gut.

KILMER (CONT'D)

It's the most magical time of the year! It's my favorite holiday! I love love love, love! You must help with the decorations. It's the best part. Here.

He hands her a bag. She drops it as if there were spiders inside, and runs out the door.

KILMER (CONT'D)

Was it something I said?

EXT. BED AND BREAKFAST - DAY

Val doesn't get far because, immediately outside, are COUPLES kissing passionately and loudly. One pair holds handles of a cart carrying a statue of St. Valentine.

The door slams behind Val, getting the groups' attention. They drop the cart, then rush to Val, arms outstretched.

COUPLE ONE

Sweet pea!

COUPLE TWO

You Rock!

COUPLE THREE

PUGS AND KITTENS!

Val runs back towards the door, and slams into Kilmer. Triggered, she instinctively head-butts him, pushes him inside, and slams the door behind her.

INT. BED AND BREAKFAST - DAY

Kilmer rubs his forehead as Val rushes around in a panic.

KILMER

Ow.

VAL

Sorry! I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to do that. I can't help it.

KILMER

I don't think you know how to kiss.

VAL

I wasn't- Uh, whatever. I gotta go!

Val runs across the room, tosses her gear and herself out the window, and runs off.

KILMER

Wait! There's a storm coming!

Val runs toward the mountain, struggles through a painful thicket, and disappears into the trees.

EXT. BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN - DUSK

It's a steep, heavily wooded area, with no trail. Rain pours down. Val, out of breath, violently slashes her knife to clear branches out of her way as she forces herself up the steep mud.

She slips, falls, and slides down the side of the mountain.

She slides headfirst into Kilmer's legs, flipping him into the air and spiraling him down the mountainside with her.

They come to rest at the bottom. Kilmer, smiling from ear to ear, springs up and holds out a hand for Val.

KILMER

Hello, again!

She slaps his hand away, and struggles in the mud to stand.

Val bellows in frustration and tries to scramble back up the muddy incline.

KILMER (CONT'D)
It's too dangerous to be alone in
the storm.

VAL
It's more dangerous if I go back.

KILMER
How can that be! We are a town that
does nothing but give love.

Val turns and screams at Kilmer, swinging her knife at him,
but instead strikes a tree branch next to him.

KILMER (CONT'D)
Oh my! You're so strong!

Val grabs her knife and hurries up the mountainside.

KILMER (CONT'D)
Wait, if you insist, please let me
help keep you safe.

VAL
No, go away. Get away from me!

Val tries to run faster, but slips, and Kilmer catches her.

It could have been a really romantic moment if this was any
other movie.

Instead, Val punches his face, kicks him in the balls, then
punches his face again, and runs off as he crumples in pain.

Thunder booms, and the rain comes down harder.

EXT. CLEARING - EVENING

It's violently raining sideways. Heavy winds bend and snap
tree branches.

Val, soaking wet, tries to trudge on. But a large branch
falls, blocking her path.

Seething with rage and frustration, she raises a fist at the
tree overhead.

VAL
Fuck you, tree!

She punches the tree, hurting her hand. She steps back, and
stumbles over the tree branch. Her foot gets stuck in a fork
in the branch, and she falls, twisting her ankle.

She groans in pain as she reaches toward her foot.

She hears a crack of lightning overhead, and looks up just as another branch falls directly toward her. She raises her arms and screams.

INT. KILMER'S YURT - MORNING

Val's eyes flutter open. She's surprised to find she is on a thin mattress on the floor, bundled under warm blankets near a fire. Her head is bandaged. She sits up and sees a splint on her ankle.

Kilmer enters with hot cocoa and soup.

KILMER

Finally awake! Perfect timing. Have my lunch.

Kilmer puts the food down in front of her, then takes a seat on the chair across from her, consciously giving her space.

VAL

Where am I?

KILMER

This is just like "The Notebook"! But instead of losing your memory forever, you never lost it all! And instead of a retirement home, you are in my yurt, in my village.

VAL

So, it's nothing like "The Notebook"?

KILMER

Oh, no! You have not seen this yet. I have ruined it for you. It was such a beautiful story and you will never know the joy and sorrow of seeing it with unknowing eyes.

Val looks out the window. A LOT more people than yesterday. Adults and children dressed in peasant garb go about their business: fetch water from a well, chop firewood, feed chickens and goats, brush horses. Some dance around a wooden pole with St. Valentine on top.

VAL

When did all these people get here?

KILMER

You arrived yesterday during a sacred daily ritual, known as an afternoon delight. But now everyone is preparing for our world-famous celebration!

VAL

I have to get out of here.

Val tries to walk but falls, crying out in pain. She tries crawling, but Kilmer gives her a chair to sit in.

KILMER

You can't go. You're injured.

Kilmer begins jumping and clapping like a child on Christmas.

KILMER (CONT'D)

And today is the best day of the year! The beginning of the week-long feast celebrating my favorite holiday! You have to stay! Look over there.

Kilmer points out the window. A hay cart is emptied of hay and filled with Valentine's Day candy. Trees are decorated with pictures of faces of Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts from the late 1990s, early 2000s classic Rom Coms.

Someone is building a kissing booth. People are re-enacting scenes from "Love Actually" and "Jerry Maguire". Val closes her eyes tight, and moves away from the window.

She can't catch her breath. She vomits into a potted plant.

KILMER (CONT'D)

Oh no, see you aren't well, you can't go. Lie down.

Kilmer helps her back to the mattress and cleans up.

VAL

I'm fine. It's just Valium time.

KILMER

Valentine's?

VAL

Definitely not. Do you happen to have any Valium? Xanax? Benzos? I didn't bring mine, I thought I'd be away from all that-

She waves her hand toward the Valentine's nonsense outside.

KILMER

Maybe we wait until you are better,
then you can participate!

VAL

I'm **not** participating.

KILMER

We don't force anyone. Everyone
WANTS to do it. Who wouldn't?! It
is like saying you force everyone
to celebrate Christmas. Love is a
good thing.

VAL

For me, it's not.

KILMER

Really? But love is the best thing
in the entire universe!

VAL

Love is pain.

KILMER

No, no, the quote is "Life is
pain". From "The Princess Bride".
You have so much to learn.

VAL

No, it's seriously painful, it's
like being murdered.

KILMER

How is that even possible?

VAL

When I see anything associated with
love, I hulk out and hurt people.
You know the Hulk, right?

KILMER

Is Hulk a great love story where
you come from? But love can't hurt,
only heal. Ah, you poor thing, you
must not know real love. You're
confusing it with something else.

He pats her gently. She slaps away his hand.

VAL
I know my own damn self better than
you!

KILMER
Have you ever looked lovingly into
someone's eyes--

VAL
STOP!

Kilmer stares in bewilderment.

VAL (CONT'D)
You're acting like a crazy, insane,
lunatic, who's going to murder me
in my sleep. Love is a dangerous
fantasy, that leads to being killed
by a truck of Whitman's Samplers.

KILMER
That's a strange thing to think.

Kilmer stares at her, expecting more, but gets nothing.

KILMER (CONT'D)
Okay, you want to be alone. Self-
love is important. But going up the
mountain by yourself is not self-
love, it's self-destruction. Why
are you so determined to do this?

Val closes her eyes, and steels herself into telling him.

VAL
It all started when I was little.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

The flashbacks are in Black and White.

CHILD VAL (8) kicks and chases a ball decorated with hearts
down the street.

VAL (O.S.)
It was February fourteenth. I got
cupcakes and chocolates at school.
Then, I came home and played with
my new ball. I was having so much
fun, I didn't even think of the
traffic.

Child Val's MOM and DAD chase after her down the street.

MOM AND DAD
Val!/Come back!/We loooooove you!

Child Val catches her ball, and turns around just in time to see:

A WHITMAN'S SAMPLER TRUCK RUNS OVER HER PARENTS!

Child Val drops her ball. Chocolates roll on the pavement around her.

CHILD VAL
Mommy? Daddy?

BACK TO SCENE:

Val and Kilmer are a little closer, and she's slightly more at ease with him.

KILMER
Oh, I'm so sorry, I had no idea.

VAL
But it gets worse. My first boyfriend wanted to help me make peace with their deaths, so he tried to create a newer, happier memory to bury the old one.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. WHITMAN'S SAMPLER FACTORY - DAY

TEENAGE VAL (18) and her BOYFRIEND (18) get off the school bus in front of the factory. The other students run excitedly towards the front doors, but Teenage Val stops, nervous and upset. Her Boyfriend smiles encouragingly and pulls her forward. She relents, and they step forward together.

VAL (O.S.)
So he helped me face my fears-

KILMER (O.S.)
Well, that sounds very thoughtful of him.

VAL (O.S.)
I'm not done yet.

INT. WHITMAN'S SAMPLER FACTORY - DAY

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- Teenage Val and Boyfriend take a guided tour with the other students. They check out giant vats of chocolate. She still looks terribly nervous.
- Teenage Val starts to look less nervous as they watch liquid chocolate poured into chocolate molds.
- She looks almost at ease as they watch chocolates being boxed up and wrapped.

INT. WHITMAN'S SAMPLER FACTORY - TASTING ROOM - DAY

The tasting room is decorated for Valentine's Day, and there are heart-shaped boxes of chocolates out on the table. The students mill about, sampling chocolates.

Teenage Val and her boyfriend approach a box of chocolates. Teenage Val hesitates, but her Boyfriend picks out a piece of chocolate and encourages her to open her mouth.

Teenage Val slowly opens her mouth, and eats the chocolate.

The world turns black and white as a DEMENTED CHOCOLATIER (dressed a little bit like Willy Wonka) rises up behind her Boyfriend, wielding a knife.

Teenage Val tries to scream but her mouth is full of chocolate. The Demented Chocolatier slashes her Boyfriend's neck, spraying her with blood.

KILMER (O.S.)
You are teasing me.

VAL (O.S.)
No. I'm serious.

Teenage Val runs around the room, trying to find the exit, as the Demented Chocolatier murders the other students. *This should look similar in style to the murder scene in Psycho.*

VAL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Somehow, I escaped but I don't remember anything but the bodies. Blood and chocolate syrup are so much alike.

Chocolate syrup/blood and water mix, and seep down the drain.

INT. SEWER - DAY

Teenage Val is covered in dark liquid as she crawls, sobbing, through a sewer pipe.

EXT. DRAINAGE DITCH - NIGHT

It's inexplicably night and raining. Teenage Val plops out of the pipe into a ditch.

She squints as she looks up into the rain, raising her arms.

BACK TO SCENE (AND BACK IN COLOR)

Val and Kilmer are even closer together.

VAL

So I get sick at the thought of anything romantic. I can even get violent. Especially around chocolate. You have to help me get me out of here.

KILMER

A life without love or chocolate is the saddest thing I've ever heard.

VAL

Oh yeah, way more sad than having your parents and boyfriend killed, but whatever.

A KNOCK at the yurt door. Claudette enters happily with a basket of fresh-cut roses. One look at Val, and Claudette's bright face turns murderous and dark.

KILMER

Oh! I forgot! I have to help with the Bowl of Roses parade! For the festival.

VAL

You're not gonna force me to participate?

KILMER

No one is going to force you. There is only healing here. Lay down and rest. I'll be back before you know it.

Kilmer attempts to kiss her bandaged forehead, she ducks.

KILMER (CONT'D)

So sad. You cannot even have a kiss
for boo-boos to get better?

His eyes well up, and he leaves. Claudette lingers a moment showing off her knife, while glaring menacingly at Val.

VAL

You're going to kill me in my
sleep, aren't you?

Claudette smiles then leaves, slamming the door behind her.

Val tries to stand, but the pain in her leg is unbearable.

She spies a wooden push-broom in the corner, and crawls over to it. It's red and pink and covered in hearts. She gags a little, then wraps a pillowcase around the brush head.

She's a bit wobbly on her new handmade crutch, but it works well enough. She puts on her backpack and limps outside.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Val limps through the festivities, covering her eyes away from the decorations, and heads towards the woods.

Nearby, Claudette and Kilmer laugh happily decorating a float with red roses. Kilmer doesn't see Val, but Claudette does. Her smile turns to a frown.

Claudette approaches a group of villagers.

CLAUDETTE

Single.

Claudette points at Val. The group gasps and runs after Val.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Val enters a clearing near an old wooden church. However, instead of crosses on the steeple and doors, there are hearts. And instead of stained glass images and statues of religious figures, there are recreated Rom-Com moments.

Val's head spins, her heart races, and her stomach aches. Before she can get herself under control, a hand spins her around. She is face-to-face with a group of villagers with giant smiles.

VILLAGER 1

You're going the wrong way!

VAL
No, sorry--

VILLAGER 2
You want to go that way.

Villager 2 points towards the village. Val's face goes pale.

VILLAGER 1
Oh, she's injured! Come on, guys,
let's help her out.

Two strong villagers pick up Val, and carry her back as she kicks and protests.

VAL
Wait, no, this is a mistake! I'm
just passing through. I'm not here
to celebrate.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

A field has been set up with tables in the shape of a giant heart. Everything's decorated with candles, roses, hearts.

The villagers sing, dance, and play musical instruments in a big circle in the center of the heart. Two villagers plop Val in the middle of the gathering, without her crutch.

The USHERS, in purple robes, stand solemnly around the perimeter.

Val, covering her eyes, tries to crawl out of the circle. But the dancers step on her every time she spots an opening. Kilmer, dancing with Claudette, doesn't notice her.

The music suddenly stops, and an Usher holds up an oversized BOOMBOX. It plays "*In Your Eyes*".

The villagers grab partners and hurry to find seats like it's a game of musical chairs.

Claudette grabs Kilmer and pulls him to a seat, claiming him.

Val tries to escape in the commotion, but is stopped by a muscular Usher who blocks her when she tries to exit. The music stops, and Val, along with thirteen others, are partnerless in the center.

A group of fourteen ELDERS, concealed in hooded pink cloaks, walk out and stand ominously in a line before the fourteen partnerless. The HEAD ELDER, concealed in the fanciest hooded Valentine robe, steps forward.

HEAD ELDER

Rejoice, for you have become the
Chosen Ones - to be cleansed, and
reborn with love!

The crowd cheers.

Kilmer and Claudette see Val. Claudette smiles smugly, but
gets pissed off when Kilmer lights up with pure excitement.

KILMER

Yay Val! I'm so happy for her!

Thirteen of the Chosen hold hands, and happily sing and dance
around a freaked-out Val.

VAL

What. The. Fuck.

Two strong Ushers pick up Val and toss her into the
Valentine's wagon.

INT. VALENTINE'S WAGON - CONTINUOUS

It's an old wooden hay wagon, decorated for Valentine's.
Val's in a huge pile of individually-wrapped chocolate
marshmallow hearts. The whole wagon is filled with them.

Val screams and flails like a cat thrown into a pool of
water. Villagers around the wagon raise their hands to the
sky in awe as it rains candy.

Val climbs onto the highest seat to get away from the sweets.
She hyperventilates and shuts her eyes.

The other Chosen climb into the wagon, and play in the candy
like they are children in the first snow of winter: tossing
it in the air, throwing fistfuls playfully at each other, and
laying down making angels.

KILMER (O.C.)

Val!!!

VAL

Kilmer! What's going on?! They
threw me in here!

Kilmer runs up to the cart. She peeks through the wooden
slats, and reaches out a hand for help. He high-fives her.

KILMER

I'm so happy you decided to
participate! This is wonderful!

VAL
WHAT? No! I--

KILMER
You are going to get your heart
filled with love!

VAL
This is cruel and unusual
punishment!

KILMER
It's fun, not punishment! I wish I
was playing!

VAL
If you love it so much, why don't
you do it?!

KILMER
I would if I could! Either you find
a partner and are blessed with
love, or you are cleansed of what
stops love. Win-win!

The cart starts to roll away. The crowd cheers.

VAL
Please, you have to let me out!

KILMER
I can't hear you! But I'm so
excited! This is amazing!

Kilmer smiles and waves happily as she is pulled away.

Val struggles to keep it together, closing her eyes, mouthing
"one two three four" on each inhale and exhale.

Next to her is innocent GRAHAM (12), and frail ERNIE (80).

GRAHAM
Are you okay?

VAL
I can't breathe. I have to get out.

GRAHAM
Relax. If you want it to be over,
lose the game.

Val finally peeks at Graham. He looks normal enough.

VAL

What game? What is happening?

ERNIE

It's the St. Valentine's Games. All the singles have to participate.

GRAHAM

Being single is a symptom of Empty Heart Sickness.

ERNIE

This cleanses whatever keeps the flow of love blocked, filling the heart with love.

VAL

How does it do that?

GRAHAM

A cleansing ceremony where they get rid of your empty hearted sickness before it takes root inside.

ERNIE

It's the highest of honors and the holiest of ceremonies.

GRAHAM

We both were recently widowed.

Val stares at Graham.

VAL

Widowed?! What are you fourteen?

GRAHAM

Twelve.

VAL

Oh my god. It's a cult, isn't it. Some kind of sick love cult.

ERNIE

I see the potential partners are much higher quality this year.

Val scans the bottom of the barrel of a dating pool: Boys too young to legally date, Men too old to physically be able to date, catatonics, a woman in the "Gone With the Wind" dress from "27 Dresses", and possible serial killers.

Val sees one normal-looking man. Graham points at him.

GRAHAM

Except him. He's the town cannibal.

VAL

That's not a thing towns have. What is wrong with you people?!

ERNIE

Nothing. Well, nothing after we have the games. Like we said, it prevents the Empty Heart Sickness from spreading.

VAL

This is insane!

ERNIE

Everybody wants to find love.

VAL

I DON'T!

ERNIE

So, just lose the game.

VAL

That easy, huh? I have to be worse than a freakin' Hannibal Lecter over there!

The Cannibal casually unzips a lunch bag, pulls out a hunk of pink and bloody flesh, and eats it.

VAL (CONT'D)

Oh, God. Please, tell me he didn't kill someone.

GRAHAM

Haha, no. They gave him pieces of someone already dead. When you have cannibals in your village, trust me, you want to keep them well fed.

ERNIE

Saves on grave space, too.

VAL

You all better pray I lose the game before I lose my mind.

EXT. HEART-SHAPED FIELD - DAY

The cart with the Chosen leads the parade. Following are floats of Rom Com montages, such as "My Best Friend's Wedding" and "Bridget Jones' Diary". There's a nativity scene float, except baby Jesus is Cupid, complete with tiny wings and a bow and arrow.

INT. VALENTINE'S WAGON - DAY

Val stands to look out at the spectacle, and winces in pain.

VAL

I guess you guys never got the memo. This is a fake holiday created by Hallmark to torture us.

ERNIE

If the Elders hear you say that, they will kill you for blasphemy!

VAL

Kill me? You mean that figuratively, right?

Kilmer and Claudette watch the parade from the perimeter of the field along with the rest of the villagers.

The cart of Chosen parks in the center of the field, in front of a stage. Around the outside, the cheering villagers lose their minds in excitement. *"I Love You Always Forever"* plays.

KILMER

There's Val! I'm so excited for her! Yay, Val!

The look on his face, as he watches Val peek out from the cart, is pure joy. Claudette's face melts into sadness.

CLAUDETTE

You really love her, don't you?

Kilmer is caught off guard, a little embarrassed.

KILMER

Well, sure, the way we love everyone, right? I'm not doing anything wrong.

CLAUDETTE

You've never been defensive of your love before.

KILMER
I'm not defensive!

CLAUDETTE
Even your sign language feels
defensive! She's getting to you.

KILMER
Of course she is. A life with no
love? That is the saddest thing
I've ever heard.

CLAUDETTE
The saddest thing would be letting
her drag you down with her.

KILMER
Don't worry about me. I've got
extra love to go around.

Claudette's face is red with fury.

CLAUDETTE
I'm not feeling well. I'm going to
take a break.

Claudette hurries off, her scornful eyes pinned on Val.

The rest of the floats have moved on, leaving the cart of
Chosen alone. The cart doors are opened.

Val is the first one to hobble out. An Usher grabs her, and
forces her to stand in front of the stage. Horror-stricken,
Val looks around and takes in the scene.

The music stops. The Head Elder, still concealed in his
hooded cloak, speaks into a bullhorn.

HEAD ELDER
The Valentine ceremonies begin now!

The crowd goes wild. The Ushers pin numbers to each of the
contestants. Graham's 11, Ernie's 12, and Val's pinned with
the number 13.

HEAD ELDER (CONT'D)
Let us begin with a retelling of
our revered history, as passed down
from the sacred scrolls.

The Chosen watch the celebratory Dancers and Fire Eaters as
they perform on stage. They do their routine quickly and
bizarrely, with a near-fatal accident as one chokes and spits
fire on a Dancer.

There's applause, the stage is cleared, and a quiet hush falls over the townspeople.

Theatrical PERFORMERS, wearing masks and togas, step onto the stage. An explosion of cheers erupts.

NOTE: The Performers will portray the story told in the action lines through modern dance.

A Performer dressed as the Greek God APHRODITE steps forward.

GREEK CHORUS

Oh Aphrodite, mother of Cupid,
goddess of love. We art thou humble
servants. Save us from the plague.

APHRODITE

Beware, my children! 'Tis the Empty
Hearted Sickness infecting the
world. It blocks the love, and
causes a hunger that can never be
satiated. Seclude thyself, foster
light, and thou shalt be saved!

The Performers, two by two, begin a loving blissful orgy-like group dance.

Val recoils. She squeezes her eyes shut, covers her ears.

Ushers hold her arms down, and force her eyes open so she must hear and watch.

GREEK CHORUS

Aphrodite! Eros! Thou commanded and
we followed. We hath lived in
bliss, for a hundred years, far
from the world to protect love.

The costumes of the Performers change to reflect time passing and fashion changing. Suddenly, Zombie-type actors pop out. The Greek Chorus cowers in fear.

GREEK CHORUS (CONT'D)

Alas! The Empty Hearted Sickness
has returned! The lack of love hath
created monsters. We must fight for
our lives!

In each era, they fight off chomping monsters, but they just keep popping back up.

The performers are now in the present, dressed in their peasant cult garb. One by one they get sick, suffer from paralysis, cannibalistic rage, and die.

The more ridiculous it gets, the less Val freaks out. Soon she laughs at the idiocy. The Ushers beat her with foam hearts to stop her cackles.

GREEK CHORUS (CONT'D)
The loveless hunger hath befallen
us! Aphrodite! Save us!

A coffee-table-sized cardboard airplane on a string flies over the Greek Chorus. The airplane's wing is on fire (with red streamers), the plane crashes, while the Greek Chorus makes silly burning and crashing sound effects.

GREEK CHORUS (CONT'D)
Is that a metal bird? It must be
sent by the Goddess. Run! To the
gift from heaven.

The Greek Chorus dance-runs to the plane. Valentine's Day merchandise, Rom-Com posters, DVDs (with players), and Harlequin romance novels pour out of the plane.

GREEK CHORUS (CONT'D)
We are saved!

Aphrodite appears.

APHRODITE
Thou hath been saved by the Saints
of love. Honor them all. Saint
Julia Roberts, Saint Molly
Ringwald, Saint Drew Barrymore, and
the rest. Preserve the sacred
scrolls and artifacts. Teach it to
thy children. Each year, cleanse
the village before the Empty Heart
Sickness takes hold. This is my
word, and my word is love!

The audience cheers and the Chosen bow. Val can't believe it.

HEAD ELDER
And as our Goddess Aphrodite has
commanded, let the annual sacred
cleansing begin!

Cheers erupt at the loudest, most insane level yet. HARP PLAYER (80s), a tiny, frail woman, drags a 6' tall harp to the field.

HEAD ELDER (CONT'D)
Roses are red, Violets are blue,
create love from thin air, so
someone will choose you.

The Harp Player plays a GLISSANDO, indicating the competition has started. *[The Harp Glissando will be used at the start of each game. Please google it if you don't know what it is.]*

Volunteers from the village, dressed in special white robes with pink hearts, bring out tables and chairs. Everyone around Val takes a seat, and eagerly begins constructing a Valentine's card.

Claudette appears before Val in a hooded pink robe.

VAL
What's going on?

CLAUDETTE
You have to make the best valentine. When everyone is done, the Chosen choose favorites. If yours isn't picked, you lose.

VAL
Ok. What's the best way to lose?

Claudette is confused, but not upset about this.

CLAUDETTE
You WANT to lose?

VAL
Yeah, so I can stop playing this stupid game.

Claudette tries to contain her evil grin.

VAL (CONT'D)
What?

CLAUDETTE
Sure, I'll help you! Be right back.

Claudette scurries off. An Usher pushes Val into her seat. More glitter, paint, beads, lace, glue, scissors, and an assortment of arts and crafts supplies are put on the table.

Val starts to shake and has trouble breathing as more and more pink and red romantic decorations are laid out.

Claudette, dressed as a volunteer, has a bucket, which she dumps in front of Val. Blood and cow hearts pour out.

VAL
What the fuck?!

Val tries not to gag at the smell and sight of real blood and a pile of cow hearts.

CLAUDETTE
You said you wanted to lose.

VAL
Fuck this.

Val tries to hobble away, but the Usher catches her and sits back down.

USHER ONE
You are Chosen.

Val wrestles, but the Usher punches her in the stomach, knocking the wind out of her.

CUT TO:

HARP GLISSANDO.

The Chosen stop decorating their valentines and step away from the table. When Val doesn't get up, an Usher drags her away.

The table's covered in elaborate cards and paper sculptures. Val gags at the sight, and shields her eyes.

Claudette looms in on Val.

CLAUDETTE
Congratulations. You are going to lose for sure.

HEAD ELDER
Valentines you all have made, now you get to choose. But careful, there's an extra one, so one of you will lose!

The Head Elder places an exceptionally beautiful valentine on the table, with ornate gold leaf on it.

Starting with Chosen number One, and going in numerical order, each of the Chosen picks a valentine.

Val stands before the table. All that remains are 2 romantic valentines, and Val's disgusting cow heart. She picks one of the valentines, and hobbles back to the other Chosen.

The Cannibal, number 14, is next up.

VAL
Come on, choose the valentine.

Claudette and Val smile as the Cannibal reaches his hand to take the valentine - then grabs the cow heart and eats it.

Val and Claudette look on in horror. He looks Val in the eye creepily, as he bites into it like it's a hamburger, and blood runs down his chin. Claudette fumes.

HARP GLISSANDO. Claudette, along with the Ushers and pink-robed Volunteers, leave the field.

VAL (CONT'D)
Wait, what do I do now?

GRAHAM
This game is over. You have to go to your coach.

VAL
I have a coach?

GRAHAM
Over there.

Val looks. Kilmer excited waves to her.

VAL
Crap. You wanna trade?

Val turns, but Graham's already run off. The coaches are numbered the same as their Chosen.

Ushers grab Val and carry her to her seat. She notices the chair labeled 9 is empty.

Kilmer sneaks up on her, wrapping a towel around her shoulders like she's Rocky in a boxing ring. She shrieks.

KILMER
Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to surprise you. You were great!

He hands her a water bottle.

VAL
What the hell are you doing?

Val screws off the lid of the water bottle. She sniffs it, then throws it to the side.

KILMER
I'm your coach! Isn't that amazing!

VAL

Sure. I've died and gone to hell.

KILMER

Haha, you're hilarious.

VAL

What happened to number nine? Why'd they get to leave?

Kilmer looks around.

KILMER

Oh, I don't know. That's weird. We don't have a lot of time. I have to help you win the next event.

VAL

I don't want to win, I just want to get out of here.

Kilmer kneels in front of Val.

KILMER

You can do both! Now, I know you do not like to be touched. But can I help with your foot? There was only so much I could do safely while you were unconscious.

VAL

Fine. No funny business. And I'm ticklish. Fuck around and find out.

Kilmer takes the hiking boot and sock off her injured foot, and carefully examines it.

KILMER

You let me know if I accidentally hurt you, ok?

He touches his index finger to her big toe. She kicks him in the face as a reflex.

VAL

Sorry, it's kinda got a mind of its own.

Val leans in and holds down her knee. Kilmer touches her toe again. Her foot just misses his nose.

VAL (CONT'D)
Sorry, sorry. Reflex. Honestly.
Just touch it a few times, maybe
I'll get used to it.

He lightly taps her toe a few times. Each time she kicks,
it's slightly less powerful.

He gently bends her foot, back and forth, up and down,
keeping an eye on Val for her reaction. She grimaces.

KILMER
Pain?

VAL
Not yet. Just finish up before I
puke.

He stretches her foot back and forth.

VAL (CONT'D)
So where were you for the first
event?

KILMER
That was to help us match the
players with their coaches. What
was up with that cow's heart? You
were supposed to use love to make
something beautiful!

VAL
I want to lose, so I can be allowed
to leave.

KILMER
Val, you've told me about the
demons in your heart. Don't you
want to be free of them?

VAL
Modern medicine couldn't help me.
There's no way this crazy cult
will.

He massages around her ankle and heel. Val seems to relax.

KILMER
If I was sick and dying, I would
try everything to get better. You
must be improving, because someone
chose your gross cow heart. Love
truly is blind.

VAL

I don't want to be blind. I keep my
eyes open, so no one can sneak up
and pull the rug out from under me.

Kilmer pats her foot.

KILMER

There. All better now? Try and
stand on it.

Val stands up. Takes a few steps.

VAL

It's fixed! Thank you!

KILMER

Good! Now let me see your head.

She sits back down, and he unwraps the bandages. Just a tiny
bruise on her forehead.

KILMER (CONT'D)

Your head booboo got better without
the kiss. But I bet it would have
healed faster...

Kilmer giggles.

Ushers lead the Chosen back into the center. Claudette
approaches the Cannibal in her pink-hooded cloak. She signs
to him, her sleeves obscuring what she is signing, then
points at Val.

HEAD ELDER

Roses are red, cherries are tart.
Love's like a dance, to the rhythm
of your heart!

HARP GLISSANDO!

"(I've Had) The Time of My Life" plays.

The Chosen quickly pick dance partners, except for number
THREE, a frail old man who isn't fast enough. He does a slow
shuffle back and forth by himself.

The Cannibal lurches toward Val, licking his lips while
laughing crazily.

Val grabs a rock, and chucks it at the Cannibal's head,
knocking him unconscious. She tries to run, but Kilmer easily
catches up to her.

KILMER

Where are you going? Why are you not taking this seriously?

VAL

I'm taking "being alive" very seriously. A cannibal tried to eat me!

Val tries to go around him, but Kilmer gets in her way.

KILMER

You're not even trying, and that's an insult to our customs. A little love isn't going to kill you.

Val tries to go the other way, but Kilmer twirls around her.

VAL

But he probably will.

KILMER

If your love is strong, he won't eat you. That's why I've never been eaten.

Val fakes him out, tries a different direction, but stumbles. He catches her hand, and brings her back upright.

VAL

That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard.

She zigs and zags, but Kilmer hops and twirls, landing in arabesque in front of her. Val pushes him, but Kilmer's balance is expert level. He turns his fall into a dance move.

VAL (CONT'D)

I've seen people killed by love. A truck full of chocolate-covered love to be exact.

Val turns to walk in the opposite direction, he does a flip over her head and lands in front of her.

KILMER

Love never kills people, it saves them.

Kilmer matches each move Val makes, and it appears more like they are dancing, than one person trying to stop another person from running away.

Claudette watches them "dance", and her heart breaks.

Kilmer takes a kneeling dance pose before Val. Val takes a running jump, leaps over him, but he catches her at the waist and raises her, like the "Dirty Dancing" Lift.

KILMER (CONT'D)
Another thing I love about love is,
you don't have to see it or be
conscious of it, for it to be
surrounding you.

Val looks down at Kilmer. He's so cute with those puppy eyes.

HARP GLISSANDO.

She vomits on him. He gently puts her down.

Two Ushers lift Kilmer and Val's arms to indicate they are victorious.

HEAD ELDER
Congratulations to our winners,
with the first perfect score in
history!

The crowd cheers for Val and Kilmer. He wipes his face with a heart-covered hanky.

KILMER
Your ability to vomit with no food
in your stomach is really
something.

VAL
How does this count? You're not
even a contestant!

KILMER
All's fair in love and war.

Kilmer winks. Val frowns.

Ushers haul off the unconscious Cannibal (Fourteen) and number Three.

Claudette looks on helplessly as Kilmer excitedly jumps around celebrating their victory. She gingerly touches a hand-woven bracelet around her wrist and sheds a tear.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. OUTDOOR CAFE - DAY

SUPER: 12 YEARS EARLIER

A small modern American town surrounded by mountains. This is the real world, and not the cult village. There's a school bus parked in the parking lot: "Lil' Lord Fauntleroy's Boarding School" written on the side.

YOUNG CLAUDETTE (8), dressed in old hand-me-down clothes, stands out among the other children, dressed like Abercrombie and Fitch models. Claudette attempts to sit with them.

BOY 1
(mocking her deaf accent)
This table is full.

The boys and girls laugh. Young Claudette can't hear, but she can see the laughter and cruel looks.

Young Claudette tries another table, but the kids put their bags on the open seats, not allowing her to sit. One of the Boys flips her the bird.

BOY 2
I can do sign language, too.

Young Claudette looks around, but there are no seats left with the other kids. She sits alone, ignoring the children that bully her.

GIRL 1
Why does she dress like that?

GIRL 2
Because she doesn't have parents.
Not even her mom wanted her.

YOUNG KILMER (10) walks by with a group of adults and children. They are all wearing their peasant style clothing, and are very obviously a cult.

The rich children stare and whisper at their weird appearance.

BOY 3
It's those crazy Love Cult weirdos!

BOY 4
Don't look at them, or they'll try
to marry you.

GIRL 3
Gross!

The children laugh. Kilmer and his group smile and wave at the children. Their comments do not bother them at all.

Claudette observes this in wonder. Kilmer sees Claudette, looking lost and alone. He approaches her.

YOUNG KILMER
Are these seats empty?

She sadly signs back.

CLAUDETTE
Yes. Do you want me to leave?

YOUNG KILMER
We'd love to join you! We're only visiting for the day, but we love making friends! And we can all practice sign language together!

She smiles, and blushes.

Young Kilmer and Claudette sit across from each other. He hands her half his sandwich, and she gladly takes it.

YOUNG CLAUDETTE
This is your family?

YOUNG KILMER
My parents are not around anymore, but they are like a family to me!

YOUNG CLAUDETTE
I'm an orphan, too.

YOUNG KILMER
Would you like to be part of my family?

Young Claudette nods enthusiastically, and eats her sandwich.

INT. KILMER'S YURT - DAY

SUPER: ONE YEAR AGO

Claudette enters with a heart-shaped cake, and sets it down in front of Kilmer.

CLAUDETTE
Surprise!

KILMER
You baked me a cake!

CLAUDETTE

It's our anniversary. Of the day
you saved me.

KILMER

It's love that saved you. And the
universe has already repaid me with
a gift more precious than gold.
Your friendship!

The word "friendship" causes her smile to slightly falter.

KILMER (CONT'D)

I have a gift for you too. Hold out
your arm and close your eyes.

Claudette obeys happily. Kilmer takes out the woven bracelet
(the same one she wears in the present). Claudette opens her
eyes and smiles. Hope blooms in her heart.

KILMER (CONT'D)

It's woven together like our
hearts. We'll be together forever.
One day we are going to find our
soulmates, and our children will
get to be best friends, too. Won't
that be magical!

Her smile melts into disappointment.

CLAUDETTE

I love you.

KILMER

I love you, too!

Kilmer kisses her on the forehead like a father would a
child, and Claudette is crestfallen.

KILMER (CONT'D)

Now let's cut into this delicious
cake!

Claudette tries to smile, but can't hide her heartbreak.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. HEART-SHAPED FIELD - DAY

Claudette watches the Ushers drag off the Chosen, and she
runs to Kilmer.

CLAUDETTE

Kilmer! What are you doing?

KILMER

Val needs my help.

CLAUDETTE

You can't help her. Those outsiders have no love! You have not lived among them like me. I've told you what it was like.

KILMER

And I told you, love will help you forgive them. And the love will heal them.

CLAUDETTE

She's past that! Her heart is empty like the rest.

KILMER

I'm going to help Val heal, and seeing it, will help you heal.

Kilmer smiles and hugs her. Claudette holds him tight, tears running down her cheeks.

EXT. PRISON YURT - DAY

Ushers escort Val in, followed by Volunteers carrying dresses, makeup, and shoes. Kilmer enters last.

INT. PRISON YURT - DAY

The Volunteers set the supplies around the yurt and leave. Kilmer eyes the dresses, and holds a red one up to Val.

VAL

I don't suppose you're going to help get me out of here?

KILMER

Haha! No, even better. I am going to help you win. You look very good in red.

Val rolls her eyes.

VAL

You can leave now.

KILMER

Yes, I will let you get ready.

VAL

Ready for?

KILMER

You need to get dressed up in the sacred costume! Pretty dress, pretty hair, pretty makeup! Like the girl who takes off her glasses and shakes out a ponytail to reveal how beautiful she really is!

VAL

I'm not a girl, I'm a grown woman. And that's a stupid trope. But this-

(touching the red dress)

This seems tolerable.

EXT. PRISON YURT - NIGHT

Val emerges looking like Julia Roberts in "Pretty Woman". Except for the "Thirteen" sash across her dress.

She sees Kilmer, who is now showered, shaved, and dressed in a tuxedo. Val gags at the sight. Kilmer sees her and smiles.

KILMER

Tonight we recreate the sacred rose ceremony from video archive footage, which I believe is called "*The Bachelor*".

VAL

If you ever move to a city, your mind is going to be blown.

KILMER

And then there is a yummy banquet! Isn't it exciting!

VAL

No.

KILMER

Oh! I have something special for you, to go with your dress.

He pulls out a large jewelry box, and opens it up. It's a gorgeous necklace! She reaches out to touch it.

He pretends to snap the lid down, and she punches him.

KILMER (CONT'D)
That went differently than the holy scenes.

VAL
Sorry, reflex. This is mine to keep?

KILMER
No, haha, it's a sacred artifact used only during the Valentine's ceremonies.

She puts it on, and they walk.

KILMER (CONT'D)
We don't have to touch, if it helps you vomit less.

VAL
Thank you. You look so nice, it's going to be hard not to throw up.

KILMER
If I had your condition, I'd be vomiting at the sight of you, too.

EXT. CHURCH BASEMENT - SIMULTANEOUS

Claudette sneaks around the basement, and opens a wardrobe. It's filled with valentine decorations.

She opens the next wardrobe. It's full of clubs, spears, swords, and other tools for killing.

She opens the third wardrobe, finds clothes, and takes an Elder's red robe.

EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT

A candlelit banquet has been set up outside the church. Kilmer turns to Val, and she reflexively slaps his face.

VAL
Sorry! Again! It got too romantic.

KILMER
Well, this is good practice.

VAL

Bloody cow hearts, bloody cow hearts, bloody cow hearts-

KILMER

What are you doing?

VAL

Trying to control my violent impulses by making my brain think of something disgusting.

KILMER

Is it working?

VAL

It's not helping the nausea.

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

The inside of the church is just as gaudy as the outside. Instead of a crucifix, there's a wooden statue of John Cusack holding a boombox.

15 Elders march out in red robes, hoods covering their faces, and stand behind the altar, which has 9 roses and rolls of parchment on it.

Claudette is in one of the Elder robes, the hood hiding most of her face. She pulls a roll of parchment from her robe and tries to do a switcharoo with one on the table, but an Elder bumps her, and she drops them both. She quickly grabs one, hides it, and puts the other parchment roll on the table.

Kilmer walks Val down the aisle, and they sit in the front pews with the other Chosen and coaches.

The organ plays a foul rendition of the Bachelor theme song.

ELDER

Good evening, Chosen ones. It's been wonderful getting to know you better today, you've been great. Unfortunately, one of you must go home tonight. And by "home", well, you know.

HEAD ELDER

We Elders can sense a heart without love. We have discussed who among you is most affected by the Empty Heart Sickness.

(MORE)

HEAD ELDER (CONT'D)
Your fate has been decided. The ten
Chosen may approach.

The Chosen stand before the altar.

VAL
(whispering back at
Kilmer)
Ten! Weren't we fourteen? Where did
the others go?

KILMER
I don't know. That is strange.

HEAD ELDER
Roses are red, violets are blue. If
you don't receive a flower, it's
elimination for you.

VAL
(under her breath)
Come on elimination! No whammies!

CLAUDETTE
(under her breath)
Don't call number thirteen, don't
call number thirteen!

KILMER
(under his breath)
Please let there be chocolate cake
for dessert!

HEAD ELDER
If your number is called, please
come and get your rose. Eleven...

The Chosen each take a rose from the Head Elder when called.

HEAD ELDER (CONT'D)
One. Eight. Five. Four. Two. Ten.
Six. And THIRTEEN.

VAL
Fuck!

CLAUDETTE
Damn it!

Two Ushers push Val to the Elders to get her rose.

VAL
Can I just forfeit and go home?

Claudette hands Val a rose, making sure Val pricks her finger on its thorn.

VAL (CONT'D)

Ow!

Val notices Claudette under the hood.

VAL (CONT'D)

What is your problem??

HEAD ELDER

The rose ceremony has concluded!

Seven has been eliminated!

Kilmer closes his eyes, plugs his ears and hums a loud children's song to himself.

Number SEVEN, without a rose, is a catatonic-looking man. He stares at nothing, and gnashes his teeth at the air.

The Ushers pick up Seven, lay him on the altar, and bash him to death with clubs.

VAL

What the actual fuck!

HEAD ELDER

The town has been cleansed of an empty heart! Let us celebrate!

VAL

They KILL the losers?!

SIX, in the Gone-with-the-Wind Dress, nods happily.

SIX

Isn't it wonderful! He's been cleansed!

KILMER (O.C)

(yelling)

VAL!

Kilmer jumps up and down in front of Val, Claudette runs off.

KILMER (CONT'D)

You did it! Congratulations!

VAL

They just murdered someone!

KILMER

Really? Are you sure?

VAL

Didn't you just see it!? On the altar? It's covered in bits of him!

KILMER

Oh, no, I never watch the end. I shut my eyes, close my ears and hum, to stay pure.

VAL

THEY BASHED OPEN SEVEN LIKE HE WAS A FUCKING PINATA!

KILMER

Oh, he was probably turning into a cannibal. Once the empty heart sickness takes hold, that's what happens. There is no cure you know.

VAL

Six flat out told me they kill the losers. That's how they "cleanse" people.

KILMER

You must have misunderstood her. I wish it wasn't so gross and brutal, and right in front of you, but you know, nothing is perfect. Except love.

VAL

You gotta get me out of here. You want me to be alive, right?

KILMER

Of course. But you're not a cannibal.

VAL

Not the last time I checked.

KILMER

Then you have nothing to worry about.

Val turns to Chosen number ONE, a skinny guy with a unibrow.

VAL

Hey, what happens to a Chosen person when they lose?

One gives a disturbed smile and speaks ominously.

ONE

They get cleansed.

KILMER

Yes, exactly. See, he didn't say killed, he said cleansed. I'll get you some punch to calm you down.

Kilmer walks out. Val sees Claudette, looking murderously at her from under her hood.

Claudette pantomimes a slice across her throat, the universal symbol for, "You're Going To Die."

VAL

Why are you trying to kill me? You don't even know me!

CLAUDETTE

Kilmer's too good for you, and I won't let your emptiness destroy him!

VAL

That's what this is about?!
Kilmer?! You can have him!
Seriously, take him. Right now.
I'll put a bow on him, I'm sure
there's one around here somewhere.

HEAD ELDER

Day one is complete! Let the
celebratory feast begin!

The villagers exit the church in revelry.

EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Villagers help themselves to food and sit down at the tables.

Val struggles against Ushers, who grab her and forcefully sit her down next to Kilmer.

KILMER

I got you some punch. And some
cake. It's chocolate!

VAL

Claudette's going to kill me!

KILMER

Oh, she is messing with you.

VAL

Might I remind you, they just murdered a person in there.

KILMER

I've lived in this village my whole life. If they were murdering people - like real people, not just cannibals - I think I would know.

Kilmer gets up to dance. Val looks up and sees player Number TWO, a hillbilly bearded man, standing off in the shadows. Everyone's eating, dancing and don't notice him, except Val.

Two smiles sinisterly as he pulls out Ernie's bloody head. Val screams, but the revelry is so loud, no one can hear her.

INT. PRISON YURT - NIGHT

Val's thrown in, the door is locked behind her. She's so exhausted, she sits down and cries.

KILMER

Hey!

Val hears Kilmer's voice at the window and runs over.

VAL

Number Two killed Ernie. I saw it. The players are picking each other off, that's why they're disappearing!

KILMER

The Empty Heart Sickness must have taken root. Don't worry. I will make sure that your heart is too pure for those with the sickness to attack. You will win, and leave healed.

VAL

Not gonna happen.

KILMER

Not with that attitude!

VAL

Kilmer, I know you grew up here and this is your family. No one wants to believe the people they love are capable of bad things, but *they* are murdering people!

(MORE)

VAL (CONT'D)

Even if they're cannibals, killing them, violently, without a trial, is still bad!

KILMER

You're scared. And all this romance is getting to you. The stress is making you hallucinate.

VAL

I'm not hallucinating! Not right now, anyway. For argument's sake, say they aren't killing people.

KILMER

They are not killing people.

VAL

Pretend they are.

KILMER

It's pretend because they aren't.

VAL

Kilmer!

KILMER

Yes?

VAL

They are forcing me to do this against my will. This is messed up!

KILMER

The ushers? They are just directing you to where you need to go. If you leave unhealed, the village will be cursed. You saw what Aphrodite said!

VAL

They are telling you lies to control you.

KILMER

If they hear you saying these things about the sacred artifacts, they will surely punish you for blasphemy! Please, this is the truth, I know it.

Val paces around the room, trying to think. She stops.

VAL
Hey. Come closer to the bars. I'm
gonna kiss you.

KILMER
What?

VAL
If I can survive that, I can
survive anything. It's like
exposure therapy, so I can get
through these stupid games. You
wanna help me win right?

Kilmer shoves his face against the bars.

VAL (CONT'D)
I'm just going to do it as fast as
I can. Before my brain knows what's
happening.

KILMER
Okay.

VAL
Ready?

KILMER
Yes.

Val leans in for a kiss and misses his face entirely.

VAL
I did it!

KILMER
You kissed the air. Try again.

She hesitates.

KILMER (CONT'D)
Come on, do it. I believe in you.
Wait, is that too romantic!? I
don't believe in you. Ew, kisses
are gross, they are like punches.
Think of cow hearts.

Val closes her eyes tight.

VAL
Cow hearts. Cow hearts. Cow hearts.

Val vomits on Kilmer.

KILMER
Do it again!

VAL
Really?

KILMER
Yes!

VAL
I just threw up on you.

Kilmer wipes off his face.

KILMER
I know.

VAL
And now you're all gross.

KILMER
Perfect! DON'T THINK! JUST DO IT!
NOW!

Val squeezes her eyes shut and throws herself at him, but she head-butts him.

KILMER (CONT'D)
Owee.

VAL
I'm sorry! Are you okay?

KILMER
Maybe we should start small.

VAL
Why are you doing this? I'm going
to kill you.

Kilmer smiles.

KILMER
I'm not afraid of death. I'm afraid
to live without faith in love.

Val stares for a second, then vomits all over him again.

VAL
Sorry, I ate too much at the feast.
Stress eating. Good stuff though.
Nothing like farm-fresh goat
cheese.

EXT. PRISON YURT - NIGHT

Claudette walks by, spots Kilmer talking to Val, and is engulfed in anger.

EXT. NUMBER ONE'S YURT - A LITTLE LATER

Claudette peeks in the window. One sleeps soundly, snoring like a chainsaw. Claudette throws a rock at him, he wakes up.

ONE

Huh? Who's there?

CLAUDETTE

I'm here to warn you.

ONE

Warn me in the morning.

CLAUDETTE

Do you want to win or not?

One nods. Claudette smiles sinisterly.

INT. PRISON YURT - DAWN

Kilmer and Val are exhausted, barely hanging onto the bars, and Kilmer's covered head to toe in vomit.

VAL

Nothing's working.

KILMER

It's okay. Don't panic. Let's try something easier. Just eye contact.

Val groggily makes eye contact. He braces himself.

KILMER (CONT'D)

You're okay?

VAL

Maybe when I'm exhausted, my blood pressure can't spike. I'm not panicking, no hallucinations trying to kill me.

KILMER

You hallucinate someone is trying to kill you?

VAL
Don't worry about it. You helped
me. Thank you.

Val leans her head out through the bars and tries to give him
a peck on the cheek, but she bites him.

KILMER
Ouch!

VAL
I'm so sorry! I don't want to die!

EXT. HEART-SHAPED FIELD - MORNING

The remaining Chosen gather: One, Two, Four, Five, Six,
Eight, Ten, and Val are marched out onto the field.

VAL
Someone ate Graham?! He was just a
little kid!

TWO
I was in the mood for s'mores.

VAL
You're not really a cannibal, you
know. It's psychosomatic, from your
crazy-ass religion.

TWO
For someone from the big city, you
are very intolerant of other
people's beliefs.

The Head Elder speaks through a bullhorn.

HEAD ELDER
Roses are red, but sometimes
they're cream. To test your love,
you must be a team.

HARP GLISSANDO.

The Chosen share conspiring glances with Claudette.

One (Unibrow) and Six (Gone with the Wind Dress) pair up. Two
(Hillbilly cannibal) and FIVE, a gangly teenager, pair up.

FOUR, an elderly woman in a tattered wedding dress, EIGHT, a
greasy woman covered in pet hair, and TEN (a woman with a
hunchback) hold hands.

VAL
You guys have three?

EIGHT
Sorry, we're fond of each other.

Val approaches One and Six, and holds out her hand. They ignore her.

VAL
But can't you just--

HEAD ELDER
Thirteen, you have forty seconds to find a partner.

VAL
(to One and Six)
What do you want? I'll give you anything! Oh, I bet your sacred artifacts look even better on a blu-ray player!

HEAD ELDER
Thirty seconds.

VAL
Come on! This isn't fair.

EIGHT
All's fair in love and war.

Val has tears in her eyes. The world spins. The crowd chants.

CROWD
Ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five,
four, three, two--

Kilmer takes a step. Claudette grabs his arm, but can't stop him. He runs to Val, takes her hand, lifts it high in the air.

HARP GLISSANDO.

HEAD ELDER
We have a last-minute addition.
Number fifteen!

The crowd gasps. Claudette looks like she might pass out from the horror. Val's both relieved and shocked.

VAL
But if we lose, you could die too.

He winks.

KILMER

I told you there is something that
scares me more than death.

Kilmer quickly pulls out an umbrella to shield him from Val's
reaction. But Val doesn't barf. He peeks over the umbrella.

She gazes into Kilmer's eyes with the tenderness she wasn't
aware she possessed.

VAL

Thank you.

Kilmer squeezes her hand and returns her gaze. She gags.

VAL (CONT'D)

Nope. This is only pretend. We are
not going to fall in...

She covers her mouth and shuts her eyes, hand up in a "wait"
position.

KILMER

Got it. No "L" word.

Val takes a few deep breaths, and gives Kilmer a nod.

Claudette runs to Kilmer in tears, throws her arms around him.

HEAD ELDER

Looks like we have another Chosen
one! Sixteen!

KILMER

What are you--

CLAUDETTE

Shut up! You promised me we would
be together forever. If you die,
then I die!

KILMER

What is wrong with you people? No
one dies! Except if you are a
cannibal.

CLAUDETTE

Oh Kilmer. Didn't you notice the
Chosen don't come back after the
games?

KILMER

I thought they just moved to a farm
in Alaska.

Claudette's face is serious. She walks over to a bush, pulls the branches back, and shows a pile of dead bodies. Many of them have bite marks on their limbs.

KILMER (CONT'D)

Holy Aphrodite! There's a lot of cannibals this year.

VAL

How can you guys kill all these people you grew up with?

CLAUDETTE

They're single, like you, because they're horrible people! Good people have people that love them!

VAL

(to Kilmer)

She can't be on our team. She's gonna kill me!

KILMER

What? Claudette?

VAL

I bet she told the other contestants not to choose me!

CLAUDETTE

Don't be absurd!

VAL

Okay, then. Hey, Mister One!? Why didn't you pick me as a partner?

ONE

Because Claudette told us not to.

VAL

SEE!?

KILMER

Claudette? How could you?

CLAUDETTE

I was trying to protect you from her!

KILMER

That is not how we do things here, Claudette. I'm very disappointed.

CLAUDETTE
She's going to get you
killed!

VAL
She's going to kill me!

KILMER
No one is going to kill anyone! If
they see you kill someone during
the game, then they will think
you're a cannibal. We have no
choice but to help each other. Now
kiss and make up, right the fuck
now!

VAL
Did you just curse?

Kilmer glares. Claudette and Val glare at each other, then
be grudgingly shake hands.

EXT. OUTDOOR FEAST AREA - DAY

Each couple or throuple sits in a circle around a pot of
soup. Their hands are tied behind their backs. A spoon with a
long wooden handle sits on the rim of the pot.

HEAD ELDER
When a team works together, the
warmth of love grows! How to eat
your soup, only the purest of heart
knows.

HARP GLISSANDO. The other teams try to reach the soup with
their faces, but their heads don't fit in the pot.

Val's incredulous. She rolls her eyes.

VAL
I know what to do. I saw it in a
movie once.

KILMER
What's a movie?

VAL
Sorry, I meant, sacred film scroll.

Val grabs the handle of the spoon with her mouth, scoops up
soup, and feeds it to Kilmer, he feeds Claudette, and so on.

The other groups catch on and they race to feed each other.
Claudette slings their last bit of food in Val's open mouth,
beating the other team by a second, but causing Val to choke.

HARP GLISSANDO. Kilmer and Claudette do playful "eskimo kisses" to celebrate their victory, and don't notice Val struggling to breathe. Val Heimlich's herself over a chair.

EXT. HEART-SHAPED FIELD - DAY

The teams stand in a line.

HEAD ELDER

Connect at the legs, and you will
give chase. If love is in sync,
you'll win the three - or four-
legged race.

Each couple/throuple tie one of their legs to each other.
Everyone rushes, except Val, who won't move her leg close
enough.

CLAUDETTE

What is the matter with you?

KILMER

She has intimacy issues.

CLAUDETTE

Whatever. I'll be in the middle.

VAL

Hell no. You'll trip me and break
my leg!

KILMER

I have an idea.

Kilmer pulls a cartoon cat mask from his bag and puts it on.

KILMER (CONT'D)

Heh?

VAL

It's worse! And why are you just
walking around with that?

Claudette pins down Val, and Kilmer ties their legs together.

CLAUDETTE

There, you big baby! See, you're
fine. Come on!

Claudette and Kilmer try to walk to the starting line, but
Val is paralyzed with revulsion. Claudette slaps Val.

CLAUDETTE (CONT'D)
Snap out of it!

VAL
Ow!

Val slaps her back.

CLAUDETTE
It's all in your head!

VAL
I know that! That doesn't make it
not a real thing!

Claudette lifts her hand to slap, but Kilmer grabs it.

KILMER
Stop it, Claudette!

HEAD ELDER
Chosen, take your mark!

VAL
(in tears)
I can't move.

KILMER
Val, you can do this.

HEAD ELDER
Get set.

Claudette pulls out a pocket knife, full of bloodthirsty
rage, and waves it at Val.

CLAUDETTE
Run, or I'll MURDER you!!

HEAD ELDER
Go!

HARP GLISSANDO. Val screams and takes off like a bat out of
hell, Claudette and Kilmer barely keeping up with her.

The other Chosen race, except Two, who bites Five's arm.

FIVE
Hey, stop it!

Two bites a huge chunk out of Five's bicep. Five screams and
tries to untie their legs.

Val, Kilmer and Claudette cross the finish line first, quickly followed by the other two sets of Chosen.

HARP GLISSANDO. Val watches as Ushers rush out to the field and beat Two and Five to death. Kilmer's so excited, he doesn't see.

VAL

Hey!

KILMER

What!

Claudette shakes her head. Val considers Kilmer's childlike joy, glances at what's left of Two and Five, and sighs.

VAL

Good job, guys.

CUT TO:

The three teams (no longer tied up) are each dressed in colored football jerseys with their numbers on the back. Val, Claudette, and Kilmer have red flags attached to their waists.

HEAD ELDER

Love cannot grow if you don't fan the flame. Protect each flag with your heart, and you'll win this game.

VAL

What is this, flag football? You guys are really stretching the love theme here.

KILMER

It's the ultimate test of teamwork and chemistry.

CLAUDETTE

It shows how far you are willing to go to save your partner.

HARP GLISSANDO. The Chosen break out in chaos, running around in circles, grabbing at each other.

Claudette and Val sneak jabs at each other's flags when no one is looking.

One jumps for Kilmer's flag, but Claudette body slams him, saving Kilmer. While she's distracted, Six grabs her flag.

The Audience cheers.

CLAUDETTE (CONT'D)

Damn it!

Claudette trudges to the sidelines.

Four steals Kilmer's flag, and he joins Claudette.

CLAUDETTE (CONT'D)

We're fucked. This is it. We're
going to die.

All the Chosen on the field close in on Val. She is trapped.

Kilmer sees someone eating from a Whitman's sampler box. A
beam from heaven lands on the box, a choir of angels sing.

He grabs the box and throws it to Val's feet. Val's eyes
almost pop out of her head. She screams in terror and rage.

CUT TO:

HARP GLISSANDO.

The other Chosen lay passed out and pummeled on the ground.
Val's the only one standing, sweating and gasping for breath,
all the flags in her hand. The audience goes wild.

CLAUDETTE

YEAH!!!!

Kilmer and Claudette hug Val and jump in joy. As they calm
down, Claudette and Val awkwardly part, then compose
themselves and play it cool.

CLAUDETTE (CONT'D)

Those were some good moves out
there.

VAL

Thanks.

Kilmer catches Val's eye and they share a smile. They look a
little too long. Claudette notices and frowns.

EXT. RAVINE - LATE AFTERNOON

A giant log lays across a deep ravine. The Chosen stand on
one side, the Elders stand on the other. The villagers stand
below, watching from the bottom of the ravine.

HEAD ELDER

Stiff as a board, light as a
feather, balance each other's
faults, or you shall perish
together.

One and Six cross the log, very slowly. Sweat drips from
their faces. Their breath is ragged. The log shifts and rocks
from their weight.

Six's dress gets caught on a small branch. She slips and
falls, but catches onto a knot on the log, dangling. The log
rolls, and One flails his arms.

SIX

Pull me up!

One ignores Six, and tries to keep going.

SIX (CONT'D)

Please! I'm slipping!

Six falls, screaming. Without her weight, the log spins back
the other direction, flinging One to his death.

Players Four, Eight, and Ten carefully step across the log,
alternating strides, and the log wiggles less.

VAL

Why isn't the log moving as much?

KILMER

More people, more love. Also, more
weight.

VAL

Wouldn't more weight make it roll
faster?

KILMER

I don't know. I study love, not
physics.

CLAUDETTE

It's not about weight. It's about
balance! Look!

Four, Eight and Ten reach the other side of the ravine, and
celebrate together.

KILMER

It's our turn.

Val drags a thick branch over, and jams it between the log and the cliff. She tests it. The log doesn't rotate.

VAL
Who needs love when you have
physics... or geometry? I dunno,
whatever, it worked.

KILMER
You're cheating.

Val shrugs and smiles.

VAL
All's fair in love and war,
bitches.

Claudette smiles back at Val and high fives her.

CLAUDETTE
I take back everything I ever said
about you. You're a badass.

Kilmer, Val, and Claudette walk over the log, pretending to work extra hard at balancing.

Claudette suddenly slips and falls. Val instinctively drops down, grabbing Claudette's hand, but Val can't get a grip on the log, so she slides off, too.

Just in the knick of time, Kilmer grabs Val's hand and tries to pull them up, but they're too heavy.

Kilmer holds on tight, but Val's hand is slipping.

Claudette watches the way Val and Kilmer look at each other. Understanding finally dawns on her.

CLAUDETTE (CONT'D)
Let me go, Val.

VAL
What?!

CLAUDETTE
Better I die, than all of us. Take
care of each other.

KILMER
Climb up her like a rope, then
we'll both pull Val up.

Kilmer slips but catches himself, they all scream. Claudette tries to wriggle her hand free from Val's.

VAL
What are you doing?

KILMER
Claudette! Don't!

Claudette smiles tenderly at Kilmer and mouths "thank you". She twists her hand free and falls, almost floats, peacefully down.

Kilmer screams, and Val's shocked. Kilmer pulls Val up. They reach the other side of the ravine, and fall into each other's arms.

KILMER (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

There is nothing but heavy breathing for a few moments.

KILMER (CONT'D)
Do you realize you are letting me
hug you?

VAL
Yes.

Val pulls away slowly, not breaking from Kilmer's eyes.

Behind them, the Harp Player struggles to pull her harp up the hill. She spots everyone else leaving, sighs, and starts lugging her harp back down.

INT. PRISON YURT - NIGHT

Val enters - hollow, sad, and bewildered. She sits mindlessly on her bed and stares.

INT. KILMER'S YURT - NIGHT

Kilmer enters - sad and lost. He takes a menu from a drawer.

It's from the Cafe where he met Claudette. He sits and cries.

EXT. PRISON YURT - NIGHT

A line of Volunteers exit, carrying their supplies. An Usher leads Val out. She's blindfolded, clean and dressed up.

The Usher leads her to Kilmer, cleaned up, in a tux, also blindfolded, holding a wrapped square box. The Ushers wrap her arm around his, and lead them off.

KILMER
Val?

VAL
Kilmer?

KILMER
Yes, it's me.

Val's relieved.

VAL
Is this another rose ceremony? Why
are we blindfolded?

KILMER
I think we're on a blind date.

VAL
You can't see it right now, but I'm
rolling my eyes.

KILMER
I have a gift for you.

He hands her the present.

VAL
What is it?

KILMER
Open it.

VAL
I'm blindfolded. I still won't be
able to see it.

KILMER
That's the challenge. Act like you
can see it. If it feels like a real
date, we'll be successful.

VAL
This is like a weird fever dream,
not a speck of logic.

KILMER
Love does not operate on logic.

VAL
Yeah, it operates on insanity.

Val opens the gift. It's a Whitman Sampler's Box (but she
can't see it yet). Val shakes it.

VAL (CONT'D)

Oh! It's a box of rocks! Just what
I always wanted!

KILMER

So you can throw them at anyone who
tries to kiss you.

Val laughs. Kilmer pauses. Val tries to control her laughter
but it just gets louder. She can barely breathe through it.

VAL

I'm sorry. This is totally
inappropriate. I'm so sorry about
Claudette, I can't imagine what
you're going through.

KILMER

This is the first time I've heard
you laugh.

Val blushes and recomposes herself.

EXT. HEART-SHAPED FIELD - EVENING

It is set up like a romantic outdoor dining restaurant for
two parties. One table has two chairs, the other has three
chairs. Candles and twinkle lights abound. Elvis Costello's
"She" plays softly.

HEAD ELDER

Love is blind. Love is without
blame. Don't lose your mind, and
you'll win the whole game.

HARP GLISSANDO.

Kilmer pulls out the chair for Val and tries to guide her in
the seat.

VAL

What are you doing?

KILMER

I'm pulling out a chair for you.
That's what guys do on dates.

VAL

You've been on a lot of dates?

KILMER

This is my first one. But I have practiced every day since I was a small child!

Val puts the Whitman Sampler's box on the table, sits down, but misses the chair, and falls.

KILMER (CONT'D)

Sorry!

Kilmer helps her into the chair. He finds his own chair by hitting it with his leg. The sound of the impact makes Val break out in a belly laugh, which makes Kilmer laugh.

KILMER (CONT'D)

I'm doing my best here.

VAL

Sorry. I can't help it. I think I finally lost my mind.

KILMER

I'd like to make a toast.

VAL

Good idea.

Val and Kilmer reach for their glasses but have trouble finding them. Val knocks hers over. Kilmer almost knocks his over, but catches it.

An Usher puts the glass in her hand and refills it with champagne.

VAL (CONT'D)

I think we made it to the romantic comedy portion of the evening.
Thank God.

KILMER

A toast to... healing?

They go to clink glasses and miss. They try a few more times, spilling champagne all over the table. Val laughs.

VAL

Wait, should I be worried this is too fun? What's the catch?

KILMER

I have an idea!

Kilmer wraps his champagne-holding arm around Val's champagne-holding arm.

KILMER (CONT'D)
Now hold it up to your mouth and
drink. If you can.

More spills on them than in their mouth.

VAL
Got a little!

They sit and smile, enjoying their company.

VAL (CONT'D)
Do you realize I haven't had a
breakdown yet? All this romantic
stuff, and I feel fine. I guess the
exposure therapy is helping.

Kilmer scoots his chair away from her.

VAL (CONT'D)
Are you scooching away from me?

KILMER
Making sure I put on my own oxygen
mask first.

Val laughs.

CUT TO:

The meal is over. Kilmer and Val are tipsy.

KILMER (CONT'D)
And then the goat herder says, "It
won't be long now!"

They both laugh hysterically.

HARP GLISSANDO. The Ushers take off their blindfolds.

VAL
What's happening?

KILMER
I think the game is over?

Val and Kilmer see each other. There is a clear attraction
and desire in both of their eyes.

Val catches herself, and looks down, embarrassed. She spots
the Whitman Sampler's Box.

KILMER (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

VAL
No, no, no-

Val has a panic attack, stumbling out of her seat, away from the table.

BEGIN FLASHBACK/SERIES OF SHOTS:

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

Horn HONKS, Cars SCREECH. Blinding lights flash. A blood-splattered Whitman Sampler's truck leaves Val's parent's bloody, mangled bodies flattened on the pavement.

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ROOM - DAY

Child Val cries and cowers in the corner in terror from the class Valentine's celebration. Kids laugh, point, and shove Whitman's sampler's boxes in her face, causing her to freak out even more.

INT. WHITMAN'S SAMPLER FACTORY - TASTING ROOM - DAY

Teenage Val watches her Boyfriend's throat get slashed, spraying her with blood.

BACK TO SCENE:

EXT. HEART-SHAPED FIELD - NIGHT

Val screams.

KILMER
It's okay. I'm here.

He approaches her.

Val's POV: A smiling man, in a Whitman sampler candy box costume, lunges at her with a knife.

VAL
(screaming, almost
unintelligible)
No! Don't kill me! Please. STOP
SMILING AT ME!

Kilmer's POV: a terrified, wide-eyed Val screaming.

KILMER

I'm not smiling. Hey, it's okay.
It's me. Kilmer. Come back to me.

Val runs for her life. But everywhere she tries to run, in her POV, the Smiling, Costumed Whitman Sampler Box pops out. She punches and kicks him.

Val trips, and the giant Whitman's Sampler Box lunges at her. She kicks him. He stumbles backward and falls over.

Val grabs a rock, and is about to bash its head in, when someone grabs her arm.

Val looks at the Usher holding her arm. Back to where the Whitman's Box was, is now Kilmer.

Kilmer's on the ground, bloody and bruised, holding his face and crying. Ushers around her are injured, and everyone's staring at her in horrified silence.

VAL

I didn't mean to. Oh my God,
Kilmer.

Val reaches out to him, but Kilmer flinches. This is the first time she has seen Kilmer look at her in real fear.

The injured Ushers grab Val, she struggles.

VAL (CONT'D)

No, wait. Kilmer, I'm sorry! I
can't help it. Please! No! Don't
let them kill me.

Kilmer's in shock. They drag her away.

INT. VALENTINE PRISON YURT - NIGHT

The Ushers throw Val into a different, more decorated yurt.

VAL

Hey Ushers, if you help me escape,
I can send you every single Hugh
Grant sacred footage, with
interviews from the cast!

USHER TWO

Really? What's a cast?

Usher One slaps him upside the head.

USHER ONE

Knock it off. Go back to your post.

VAL

Julia Roberts is a real person! You can meet her! Hey!

USHER ONE

Of course she's a real person. You think we just made her up? Have some respect, asshole.

The Usher slams the door in Val's face. For the first time, Val really sees the door - decorated like a giant Whitman's sampler box. Val panics and scrambles as far as possible.

Val hears people outside, and peeks out the window. Her breath stops at the sight of Kilmer.

Val's about to call out his name, but notices he's flirting with a beautiful woman. She leans into Kilmer and whispers, close enough to almost kiss him. Kilmer smiles. She hooks her arm in his, and leads him away.

Val slides to her knees and cries.

INT. CHURCH - NIGHT

The villagers (except Kilmer) sit in pews, the Elders stand behind the altar, and the three Chosen - Four, Eight, and Ten, kneel before the altar.

HEAD ELDER

Are you, the final Chosen ones, ready to have your hearts cleansed?

FOUR/EIGHT/TEN

Yes, Head Elder.

HEAD ELDER

Do you want your hearts filled with love, so you may join in the glory of our saints?

FOUR/EIGHT/TEN

Yes, Head Elder.

HEAD ELDER

Then drink from Aphrodite's cup, and the path of love shall unlock.

The Head Elder holds out a wine glass. Four drinks first, then Eight, then Ten. They rise and face the villagers.

HEAD ELDER (CONT'D)
In your name, Saint Valentine, lead
your children to the land of
eternal love!

Four, Eight and Ten hold hands, arms raised, all smiles.
Suddenly, they collapse in a pile, dead. The villagers cheer!

INT. VALENTINE PRISON YURT - NIGHT

Val lays facing the wall. Kilmer pops in.

KILMER
Yoo hoo. Val?

VAL
Kilmer! Please don't hate me.

KILMER
Haha. There is no room in my heart
for hate.

VAL
And that beautiful woman you were
flirting with...?

KILMER
Oh, I was just trying to find out
the final test.

VAL
I didn't mean to hurt you.

KILMER
I know. You were as afraid as I
was. Love will guide us through.

VAL
No. I'm a psycho. I've hurt
everyone - my parents, my friends,
you. I've been this way all my
life, and I've tried, but nothing
changes.

She sobs. He sits down on the bed next to her.

KILMER
It was just a fight. That's what
happens to people right before they
live happily ever after.

VAL
It doesn't work like that.

KILMER

Of course it does! It says so in every sacred archival footage. And I can feel that you love me, too.

Val pulls away. He looks more hurt than when she beat him up. He gets up and heads for the door.

VAL

No! Wait, just...

Val closes her eyes and clenches her fists. She throws up. The puddle of vomit is in the shape of a heart.

She throws up again. It's an arrow from the heart pointing to Kilmer. Val wipes her face, with pleading eyes.

He runs to her, both about to embrace but fear stops them at the last second. Kilmer hesitantly, yet gently pats her shoulder with the emotion of a lover.

KILMER

I have faith you will conquer your demons. I won't give up on you.

VAL

They're gonna kill me tomorrow. "I care about you" is the best you're gonna get out of me. Sorry.

KILMER

No. This is your real last test. You'll win and your heart will be cleansed, and fill with love!

Val stares at him, incredulous.

VAL

How can you still believe that? They've literally been killing people every step of the way. Right in front of us! They are going to murder me tomorrow! How do you still not understand this?!?

KILMER

Without faith, there's no love.

VAL

Captivity and control is not love! Love doesn't fucking murder people!

Kilmer heads for the door.

VAL (CONT'D)

Sure, just go ahead and leave. All your life, watching movies where love is bumping heads, having innocent misunderstandings, and then-

(snaps fingers)

- eternal happiness. You don't know what love is any more than I do.

Instead of leaving, Kilmer opens the Whitman's Sampler-decorated door wide, then closes it.

He flings it open, closes it. The door doesn't have any latch, or lock. He swings it open, and lets it close.

KILMER

This isn't a prison. The only thing trapping you is your own fear. This is your last hurdle before love.

VAL

It's not that simple.

KILMER

It is. Open the door, and you're free.

VAL

This is stupid.

Val rolls her eyes, and approaches the door, but freezes.

Flashes of the Whitman's sampler tragedies smack her upside her face. She collapses to her knees.

VAL (CONT'D)

I can't.

KILMER

Yes, you can.

VAL

No, I'm just seeing them die, over and over. I can't do it again.

KILMER

How do you feel when you see it?

VAL

How do you think?? Sad, upset, angry, scared, unsafe--

KILMER

Describe how it feels, where do you
feel it in your body?

She shakes her head. He holds out a hand for her.

KILMER (CONT'D)

Try once more. Feel it. I will hold
your hand.

He helps her up. She faces the door, holding his hand with
one hand, reaching out with the other.

The giant costumed Whitman Sampler Man stares at her from the
door, laughing, wielding a knife. Val, terrified, cowers.

VAL

No! He's going to kill me!

KILMER

There's no one there.

Val lashes out defending herself against empty air. Val's
perspective, she's fending off the Whitman's Sampler Man.

VAL

Get out of here!

KILMER

Stop fighting him.

VAL

What?!

KILMER

I'm here with you. The fear can't
hurt you.

The Whitman's Sampler Man approaches Val. She holds her breath,
eyes wide as she watches him get closer. The Whitman's Sampler
Man punches her and she falls to the ground.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

Child Val bounces her ball on her way home from school.

INT. CHILD VAL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

She enters to find her Dad sitting in a recliner, drinking beer, watching a TV show where people beat puppies with sticks. Her Mom sits on the couch, smoking a crack pipe, while also trying to shoot up heroin.

CHILD VAL
Look daddy! I got a Valentine's
ball at school today.

He takes a sip of beer, and sets it on a TV tray.

CHILD VAL (CONT'D)
Daddy!

He ignores her.

CHILD VAL (CONT'D)
Daddy, look!

She tosses the ball at him. It knocks over his beer, then bounces into her Mom, knocking the needle out of her hand.

They rise above Child Val, furious. She cowers.

VAL'S DAD
Look what you did!

VAL'S MOM
What the hell's wrong with you!?

CHILD VAL
I'm sorry!

Child Val runs out of the house.

VAL'S DAD
You get back here and get what's
coming to ya!

Val's Mom and Dad chase after her.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

Her Mom and Dad chase Child Val down the street, but this time, it's clear they're trying to beat the crap out of her.

MOM AND DAD
Val!/Come back!/I'm gonna love
beating the snot outta you!

Child Val comes to a blind intersection, looks both ways, and dashes left.

Her parents follow her around the corner, right into the

WHITMAN'S SAMPLER TRUCK! AGAIN!

Child Val stands over her parent's broken bodies. She smirks, and kicks them. Chocolates roll on the pavement around her.

INT. WHITMAN'S SAMPLER FACTORY - DAY

Teenage Val, nervous and upset, stops in front of the factory. Her Boyfriend roughly pulls her in.

INT. WHITMAN'S SAMPLER FACTORY - DAY

SERIES OF SHOTS:

- Teenage Val and Boyfriend cautiously approach giant vats of chocolate. The Boyfriend pushes her forward toward the vat. She screams, he laughs.

- As chocolate's poured into molds, Boyfriend gives her a sloppy kiss. She's not into it.

- In the box wrapping room, Boyfriend grabs her butt and squeezes hard. She flinches in pain.

- Other students sample chocolates in the tasting room. Boyfriend grabs Teenage Val by the hand and pulls her into a supply closet.

INT. SUPPLY CLOSET - DAY

It's filled with cleaning supplies, and has a small window to the tasting room.

Boyfriend pins her up against cleaning supplies and makes out with her. She pushes him away.

TEENAGE VAL

I'm not feeling good. You know I don't like Valentine's.

BOYFRIEND

Would you just shut up? God, all you ever do is complain.

He grabs her breast.

SCREAMS come from the tasting room. They peek through the window.

The Demented Chocolatier murders students.

Teenage Val opens the door. The boyfriend tries to stop her.

BOYFRIEND (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

Val knees him in the stomach, flips him over her head, and out of the supply closet. She closes the door, locking it.

He bangs on the supply room window as Teenage Val watches the Demented Chocolatier come up behind him and slash his throat, spraying the window with blood.

END FLASHBACK

INT. VALENTINE PRISON YURT - NIGHT

Val and Kilmer hold each other, both in shock.

KILMER

Oh my.

VAL

Yeah.

KILMER

So, you maybe murdered them a little?

She makes some "maybe" gestures.

KILMER (CONT'D)

You didn't remember those details until now?

VAL

I guess I repressed it?

KILMER

But then, it's not love you are afraid of. It's being hurt by those who are supposed to love you.

VAL

Kilmer?

KILMER

Yes?

VAL

I think I lo- I think I- I luh-

Val struggles.

VAL (CONT'D)

I think I- I'm willing to put in
the time and commitment towards
developing a healthy and long-
lasting relationship with you.

She kisses him.

She faces the exit, closes her eyes, bellows with rage, and
charges through the door like the Kool-Aid man. The door
explodes in a hundred pieces.

EXT. VALENTINE PRISON YURT - DAY

She raises her arms triumphantly. Kilmer picks her up, spins
her around, and they share another kiss.

The Elders cloaked in special heart-embroidered robes, and
the rest of the villagers, approach Val and Kilmer.

HEAD ELDER

What in Valentine's name is going
on here?

KILMER

She has passed the test, and beaten
her fear! Now her heart has filled
with love!

HEAD ELDER

What test? We just put her in that
yurt because her toilet was backed
up. There was no lock on the door,
so we used fear to lock her in.

KILMER

But I talked to someone, and she
said that--

HEAD ELDER

The Elders run this.
(to Val)

Really, you didn't notice. We put a
sign on it, clear as day, nothing
besides one-ply paper!

VAL

Your indoor plumbing sucks!

The Head Elder signals with his hand, and two Ushers grab Val, tearing her away from Kilmer. They haul her away towards her usual prison yurt.

VAL (CONT'D)
(yelling)
Kilmer, don't let them kill me!

KILMER
Don't worry! They're just joking.
(to Head Elder)
This is a joke, yes?

The Head Elder puts a hand on Kilmer's shoulder.

HEAD ELDER
Don't worry about her, Kilmer. You
are so pure of heart. You are so
blinded by your own love, you
cannot see the Empty Heart Sickness
in others.

KILMER
But she's changed. She broke
through her barrier. Literally.

The Head Elder simply pats Kilmer on the head, and sighs.

Kilmer, confused, runs off after Val.

INT./EXT. PRISON YURT - NIGHT

Val is locked in for real now. Kilmer comes to her window, and they hold hands through the bars.

VAL
Enough of these goddamn "tests",
get me out of here!

KILMER
I haven't seen the cleansing, but
surely it's a good thing?

VAL
They are going to fucking kill me!

She points. He looks.

A giant Valentine's Day guillotine in the center of town, brightly decorated with lace and crepe paper, with a heart-covered head basket underneath, stained dark with blood.

KILMER
 Oh Saint Valentine. Hail Meg Ryan,
 full of grace, protect me.

He crumples to the ground.

VAL
 How did you really not know?!

KILMER
 It is what I've believed all my
 life. My mother -

His eyes well up with tears. Val's heart melts.

VAL
 Did they do something to your
 mother?

KILMER
 She said it was a good thing...

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. KILMER'S YURT - DAY

Young Kilmer, and Kilmer's MOTHER and FATHER make Valentine decorations together out of construction paper.

KILMER (V.O.)
 It was just before Valentine's Day.
 We were preparing as a family.

Father gets up, gives his wife and son a quick kiss on the head, and heads out.

KILMER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 He was just going to get some milk,
 but we never saw him again. I think
 a cannibal ate him.

EXT. HEART-SHAPED FIELD - DAY

The villagers perform the choosing ceremony. Kilmer's Mother sits, grief-stricken, in the center, as everyone dances around her. The rest of the villagers pair up, and Kilmer's Mother becomes one of the Chosen.

EXT. KILMER'S YURT - NIGHT

Young Kilmer approaches his Mother as she cries at the table.

KILMER'S MOTHER

It's okay, Kilmer. My heart is not feeling much love right now. They are going to help me cleanse it. Everything's going to be okay.

KILMER

I don't understand, you still feel love for me?

KILMER'S MOTHER

Yes, but not in the same way I loved your father. Someday you'll understand. Whatever happens, don't watch my cleansing ceremony.

KILMER

Why not?

KILMER'S MOTHER

Promise me you'll never watch the cleansing ceremonies. Promise!

KILMER

I promise, mama.

KILMER'S MOTHER

Just imagine my heart being filled with love again. I'm going to a place where there's no empty hearts, only love.

KILMER

But that sounds wonderful. So why are you crying?

KILMER'S MOTHER

They are tears of joy. I'll see your father again.

Kilmer's mother forces a smile.

KILMER'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

I wish you could stay this sweet, innocent, wonderful boy forever.

KILMER

I will, for you!

KILMER'S MOTHER

Time for you to go to bed.

KILMER

But--

KILMER'S MOTHER
Remember, don't watch the cleansing
ceremonies.

Kilmer's Mother breaks down, sobbing.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. PRISON YURT - NIGHT

Val gently touches Kilmer's face through the bars.

VAL
I'm so sorry.

KILMER
They kil-- Oh God. THEY KILLED HER!

Kilmer screams. There is a moment of silence.

VAL
I need you to steal the keys, and
get me out of here.

KILMER
Nothing makes sense anymore.

VAL
Kilmer, look at me. You need to
push those feelings deep inside.

KILMER
You have to feel feelings, or
they'll get worse and explode.

VAL
Exactly, we're going to need that
explosion to get us the hell out of
here. Push those feelings in, and
go get the key!

Kilmer runs away, sobbing.

VAL (CONT'D)
I fucking hate this holiday.

EXT. GUILLOTINE - NIGHT

The villagers make the guillotine the nicest Valentine's
guillotine that ever existed.

They sprinkle rose petals on the "bed", sharpen the heart-shaped blade, and fill the head basket halfway up with Sweethearts. A villager takes extra care that the "I'm head over heels for you!" heart is facing up.

INT. ELDER'S COTTAGE - NIGHT

The cottage is an exact replica of the cottage in "The Holiday". Kilmer creeps in, searching through the living room, to the kitchen.

Keys hang from a garland on the fireplace. Kilmer examines them, each labeled with beautiful calligraphy: "Torture Dungeon", "Body Refrigerator", "Chastity Belt", "Bridget's Front Door", "Titanic Gate Key", and "Drawer of Pills That Let You Forget The Entire Previous Week and Your Life Goes Back To Normal".

He finds the "Prison Yurt with Broken Toilet" key, but hesitates. He holds the "Drawer of Pills" key in his hand, mulling it over.

INT. PRISON YURT - NIGHT

Val tries to pull the bars off the window, but with all her might, they still won't budge.

She hears the door unlock, then slowly open.

Val grabs the only solid thing nearby, a DVD of "When Harry Met Sally", and approaches the door ready to swing.

It's Kilmer! He makes a shushing motion, and they tiptoe out.

EXT. PRISON YURT/GUILLOTINE - NIGHT

Val and Kilmer step outside to find themselves surrounded. The villagers, solemn in their robes, stand in two lines. The only open path leads directly to the guillotine.

The Head Elder steps forward, and motions toward the guillotine.

HEAD ELDER

It's time for your cleansing ceremony.

VAL

Not gonna happen.

HEAD ELDER

If you won't face it willingly, we
will cleanse your heart by force.

Two villagers grab Val, drag her toward the guillotine, and
two hold back Kilmer. They reach out to each other.

KILMER

Val! Think of Whitman's!

VAL

No. I can't, I've come too far.

KILMER

But the crazy, angry lady in you
was there the whole time! Deep
down, you're really a psycho
killer... that can now also love!

VAL

I don't want to hurt you again.

KILMER

You can control it now. With love!

Whitney Houston's *"I Will Always Love You"* plays.

The villagers dragging Val suddenly stop, unable to pull her
forward. They tug. She doesn't budge.

She glares at them with crazy, almost glowing eyes. Then she
launches them into space. Kilmer watches Val with admiration.

Villagers scream and run as Val unleashes her fury on them.
She punches one, kicks another, and swings a villager to
knock down a group.

The fight moves around the village to all their sacred items.
She topples the Valentine tree on a villager, then sets it on
fire.

She rips the staff off the St. Valentine's statue, and throws
it, impaling a villager. She rips off Valentine's head and
uses it to bowl down a group of fleeing villagers.

She pushes the harp onto the Harp Player, crushing her.

She rips Cupid's bow from his statue, and fires arrows at
villagers. Each one, a direct hit to the heart.

She finds the Head Elder cowering under the hay wagon of
chocolates. She flips the wagon and pulls him out by the
neck.

She rips back his hood, revealing...

VAL

John Cusack? What the hell?

JOHN CUSACK

I was filming nearby. They killed everyone else, and made me their leader. If I didn't go along with it, they would have killed me, too. I'm just a prisoner like you.

Val lets go of his neck. John Cusack sighs in relief.

JOHN CUSACK (CONT'D)

So, are you a fan?

VAL

Not really?

JOHN CUSACK

Ah ha! I knew you had the Empty Heart Sickness.

John Cusack pulls out a knife and tries to stab Val. But Val dodges it, sweeps his legs out from under him, punches him in the face and pins him down with her knee.

VAL

My heart may be sick, but it's fuller than it's ever been. I guess I can thank you for that.

JOHN CUSACK

So... you'll let me go?

Val lets out a maniacal laugh. She carries John Cusack to the guillotine, throws him down on the rose petal bed, head through the hole, and pulls the lever.

John Cusack screams. The blade comes down with a thud. Silence.

Kilmer approaches Val.

KILMER

Feeling better?

VAL

Yeah! I feel like Dexter!

KILMER

Who?

VAL
Never mind. This nightmare is over.
I'm fucking fantastic!

INT. KILMER'S YURT - MORNING

Val wakes up refreshed from her mattress on the floor. Kilmer brings her porridge, and they eat together.

VAL
I never properly thanked you for bringing me back here, and healing me. And helping me work through my issues. And helping me escape the prison. So, thank you.

KILMER
You are welcome.

VAL
Next bus out of here comes at ten.
Come with me?

KILMER
I know nothing of life outside my village. What would I do? Are there goats to milk? Decorations to make?

VAL
You helped me survive love. I'll help you survive the real world.

Val takes his hand and holds it in hers.

KILMER
That was so cheesy even I almost vomited a little.

They laugh.

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Val and Kilmer exit the yurt, each with a backpack. The entire rest of the village is smoldering ruin, bodies everywhere. Val hands her lighter to Kilmer. He lights the yurt on fire, and they head toward the bus stop.

As they slow-motion walk towards the camera, Kilmer's yurt explodes behind them.

INT. HIGH RISE CONDO - NIGHT

SUPER: ONE YEAR LATER (AGAIN)

The condo's totally remodeled, looks like it could be in *Luxury Apartment Magazine*, and someone vomited Valentine's Day decorations on it.

Romantic music plays "*Let My Love Open The Door*". Diverse, upper-class couples in their 30s wear shades of red and pink.

Diana and Doug sit across from Simon and SHERRI (25), a squirrel-like little woman, in the open living room, sipping wine and eating chocolates. There's a knock at the door.

Diana hurries to the door to let in more guests. She locks the door behind them.

DIANA

There's strict dress code colors.
Y'all better be wearing it!

The Guests take off their coats to show red and pink clothes.

GUEST 1

Anything for the Valentine queen.

GUEST 2

Diana, I can't believe this is the
same apartment. It's gorgeous!

DIANA

The fire gave me a chance to redo
everything. Even the flooring!

Her phone buzzes. She hurries out of the room, and answers.

DIANA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Hello?

DOUG

(to Sherri and Simon)
Did you try the special Valentine's
merlot yet? It's got cocoa essence.

Diana rushes back in looking as if someone told her the Purge started. She throws down her phone, and scoops up Valentine's decorations, shoving them under furniture.

DIANA

Val's here!

SIMON

Very funny.

DIANA
This is not a joke!

DOUG
You said she'd never come back!

DIANA
I said I didn't invite her! I don't even talk to her anymore! I thought she was out of the country!

SHERRI
Who's Val, and what's her deal?

DIANA
Val is not allowed to be around anything to do with romance.

SHERRI
Wait, is she the one who was at your party two years ago?

DIANA
The one and only.

Doug points at one of his eyes.

DOUG
I lost my eye that night! This one's glass!

DIANA
Doug, get off your ass and help me get this shit out of sight!

KNOCK KNOCK at the door. Everyone screams.

Doug tries to hide behind the furniture.

VAL (O.C.)
Guys! Please let me in. I've changed! I'm fine now!

DIANA
(loudly whispering)
Everyone stay quiet, and maybe she'll go away.

The guests back away from the door and hide.

Diana picks up the Valentine's centerpiece of chocolate-covered strawberries, and carries it to the fridge.

She quietly places the centerpiece in the fridge, and closes the door.

VAL IS DIRECTLY BEHIND THE FRIDGE DOOR!

VAL

Hi!

Everyone screams. Wine glasses go flying.

Val wears a full-length coat. Her hair is shiny with a fresh blow-out and her make-up is flawless.

VAL (CONT'D)

Your neighbor let me in. They had a spare key.

Everyone stares like a deer in headlights.

DIANA

Val... Why aren't you on your usual trip? We agreed you'd never come over again.

VAL

Surprise! I'm better now. I even have a boyfriend!

Everyone recoils at the word "boyfriend". When nothing happens they slowly open their eyes and look at each other, not sure if this is real.

VAL (CONT'D)

He's running late. He's picking up a Valentine's Teddy Bear. But he'll be here shortly. He's so romantic!

Val giggles and blushes, then spots Doug.

VAL (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry, Doug.

Val hands Doug a card. Inside is a coupon for a free eyeball.

Val takes off her coat to show them she is wearing a pink dress with red hearts all over it. She poses, showing off how happy she is in the dress.

VAL (CONT'D)

Seriously, look! Do you see what I'm wearing? And I haven't vomited or stabbed anyone!

The group starts to relax and laugh.

DOUG

You haven't. Oh Em Gee! How are you doing this! I'm so happy for you!

Diana hugs Val. And one by one everyone follows.

DIANA

It really is gone!

SIMON

Prayers do come true!

DIANA

You have to tell us what you did!
What the hell happened?

VAL

It all started last year...

CUT TO:

SUPER: 80 MINUTES LATER

The guests are gathered around Val, hanging onto every word in shock and horror.

VAL

So, we traveled around a while. I helped him get his GED, and we adopted a puppy.

Diana coughs. Doug shuffles uncomfortably.

VAL (CONT'D)

Just kidding! I got you! You should have seen the look on all your faces!

Val laughs. The guests look at each other, unsure, then hesitantly fake laugh along with her.

VAL (CONT'D)

Nah, just good old-fashioned therapy and medication. LOTS of medication.

The doorbell rings. Val skips over to the door, and lets in Kilmer, holding a giant Valentine's teddy bear. She kisses him.

VAL (CONT'D)

Here's my hot date! Everyone, I want you to meet Kilmer.

(MORE)

VAL (CONT'D)
Kilmer, this is Diana. Isn't it
lovely what she's done to the
place?

Diana holds a hand out for a handshake. Kilmer kneels and
kisses her hand like a gentleman.

KILMER
I am so happy to meet all of Val's
lovely friends.

DOUG
So Kilmer, where are you from?

KILMER
Oh, a very small village. You would
not have heard of it. Especially
since we torched it to the ground.

Val laughs and the guests join in, nervously.

DOUG
They're kidding again?

SHERRI
(to Val)
That whole thing about your parents
getting hit by a truck, and the
factory, that's all made up, right?

DIANA
Just the part about kinda murdering
them is fake, right? Otherwise, why
would you destroy my apartment?!

VAL
"Love is patient, love is kind,
love means slowly losing your
mind."

KILMER
Oh! That is from "27 Dresses"!

Val and Kilmer share a hysterical laugh, then a passionate
kiss. The guests grow more uncomfortable, if that's possible.

SHERRI
There really is someone for
everyone.

Kilmer feeds Val a Whitman's Sampler chocolate. She winks at
the camera.

AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER!