

POSITIVELY DATING

'Pilot'

Written by

Stephen A. Lance

3406 34th St.
Apt 1B
Astoria, NY 11106
347-276-4880
StephenALance@Gmail.com

©2013

EXT. SHOTS OF NEW YORK CITY - EVENING

The lights, the crowds, the hustle of one of the most exciting cities in the world.

AARON (V.O.)
Let's get one thing straight;
Dating is hard.

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

A mixed crowd. Gay. Straight. Young. Old. Young with old. Attractive servers float from table to table.

AARON (V.O.)
It's hard for everyone.

A couple on their first date, both too shy to talk to each other.

AARON (V.O.)
It's uncomfortable...

An intoxicated man tries to sneak his hand up his date's skirt. She stands up and throws her drink in his face.

AARON (V.O.)
Agonizing...

A young man enters and looks at a text message. There is a picture of a handsome man and a message: "I will be at the bar" He sees a man at the bar but he looks 20 years older and 50 pounds heavier. The young man exits fast.

AARON (V.O.)
Awkward...

A couple sit eating. The woman grabs a nacho and spills red sauce in her lap. It looks like she just got her period. She is mortified.

AARON (V.O.)
And it's...it's just hard. But for
me, dating can be slightly more
difficult.

INT. SAME RESTUARNT - SOMETIME IN THE PAST.

Two men sit in the back corner.

AARON (V.O.)
 I mean I'm smart, I'm attractive
 (so I've been told), I own all
 seven season of The West Wing and
 ...

We finally see AARON, mid 30s, he is more attractive then he thinks. He sits next to DATER 1. Aaron looks nervous.

AARON
 I'm HIV positive.

Dater 1 lets go of Aaron's hand and withdrawals. Dater 1 speaks or really 5 daters speak, each one looks completely different from the next. They are cut together to create one fluid line of dialogue.

DATER 1
 Oh wow...

DATER 2
 God, I'm sorry...I can't....

DATER 3
 Besides there must be...

DATER 4
 Other positive guys...

DATER 5
 You can date.

INT. SAME RESTAURANT - SOME OTHER TIME

Aaron and DATER 6, a "Chelsea boy" in his mid-30s, are sitting in the same corner.

DATER 6
 Why does this keep happening to me?
 Every fucking guy that I like is
 positive.

Dater 6 grabs his coat in a rage and exits.

INT. SAME RESTAURANT - SOME OTHER TIME

Aaron and DATER 7, the artsy type and all tatted up, sit in the same location. Dater 7 grabs Aaron's and begins to sob.

DATER 7
 Oh my god. I'm so sorry for you!

AARON (V.O.)
But no matter how hard dating can
be, we do it and not just for the
sex.

INT. RESTURANT BATHROOM

ISAAC, mid 20s, a blonde hair, blue eyed, bearded, stocky
Jewish boy and WOMAN, are having sex over the bathroom sink.
They are coming to the most athletic finish.

AARON (V.O.)
Ok, maybe sometimes we do do it for
the sex...

INT. SAME RESTURANT - PRESENT DAY - EVENING

Aaron walks into the restaurant and sees CHRISTOPHER, mid
30s, classically handsome, tall, blonde, and an amazing body.

AARON (V.O.)
But more often than not, we do it
because we hope they're out there.

Title Card: POSITIVELY DATING

Aaron approaches. Christopher is from the Netherlands.

CHRISTOPHER
Hey.

AARON (V.O.)
It's our third date and I haven't
told him yet.

Christopher gives Aaron a kiss.

AARON
Did you have a good trip home?

CHRISTOPHER
Yeah, but I'm so happy to be back.

A WAITER appears and hands them menus.

WAITER
Can I start you with something?

CHRISTOPHER
Stella, on tap

AARON
Whiskey ginger, thanks.

The waiter walks away. Christopher grabs Aaron's hand.

CHRISTOPHER
I brought something back for you.

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - AARON'S IMAGINATION

The apartment is lit with candles. Aaron stands in front of Christopher who only wears a red bow around his waist. We now see Aaron from behind Christopher's perfectly sculpted ass. Aaron's POV of Christopher untieing the bow and just when it looks like Christopher's goodies will be unleashed and flop out...

INT. RESTURANT - EVENING

The sound of Christopher placing a large slab of Gouda on the table wakes Arron from his daydream.

CHRISTOPHER
And you didn't believe I was from
Gouda.

Aaron laughs.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE RESTAURANT - SHORTLY AFTER

Aaron and Christopher kiss. Aaron leans in close. After a moment Christopher breaks the embrace.

CHRISTOPHER
I would love to continue this, but
I'm bit jet lagged.

AARON
(jokingly)
Excuses, excuses

CHRISTOPHER
Are you free Thursday or Friday
night?

Christopher starts to nibble on Aaron's ear.

AARON
(fast and nervously)
Well, Thursdays I have my spin
class, so maybe after 9?
(MORE)

AARON (CONT'D)
And Fridays I usually do my
laundry. I know, what a square, but
I have to -

Christopher kisses Aaron hard and grabs his ass. Aaron breaks
the embrace.

AARON (CONT'D)
I'm free both nights.

CHRISTOPHER
Great, I'll see you both nights
then. Good night.

Christopher kisses him one more time and walks away. Aaron
looks down, and as not to broadcast to all of Manhattan that
he has an erection, he adjusts himself.

INT. MANHATTAN GYM WEIGHT ROOM- THE NEXT DAY

Random sounds of a gym weight room. We hear grunting, as if
two men were having sex. Then we see two MUSCULAR GUYS
working out. MARKUS, late 20s, African America is sitting at
the bench press while Aaron stands behind the bench, spotting
him. They are staring at the muscular men. After a beat they
return to their conversation.

MARKUS
Wait, he gave you cheese?

AARON
He's from Gouda and -

MARKUS
And what? It's still cheese.

AARON (V.O.)
I've known Markus since college and
he knows everything. *Everything.*

AARON
Would it make you feel any better
if I told you that he can kiss?

One of the Muscular Men walks over to them.

MUSCULAR MAN
How many more sets do you have?

MARKUS
You can work in with us, if you
want.

AARON
(to the Muscular Man)
We have two more sets and we're
finished here.

MUSCULAR MAN
Thanks.

The Muscular Man walks away and the other man joins him at the squat machine.

AARON
Where was I?

Markus is still looking at the Muscular Men.

MARKUS
I can't even remember my name.

AARON
Oh yes, we were kissing on 9th ave.

MARKUS
Did you lean in?

AARON
(Coyly)
I don't know what you mean.

MARKUS
Please, we all do the 'lean in' and
feel the goods move!

Aaron wraps his thumb and his middle finger around his wrist to indicate the size of Christopher's package. All of a sudden we hear more grunting. They look over and see one of the Muscular men is doing squats and the other is spotting him by standing directly behind and wrapping his arms around his chest. They squat and grunt in unison.

MARKUS (CONT'D)
(to Aaron, dryly)
See, even they do the lean in.

EXT. NEW YORK STREET - DIRECTLY AFTER

Aaron is freshly showered and quickly dodges other pedestrians. He enters an office building.

INT. NEW YORK LAW FIRM - CONTINUOUS

The elevator doors open. Aaron rushes down the hall. He flings his bag into his cubicle, grabs a legal-pad and a pen, and runs in the other direction. He sees GREGORY TURNAGE, late 40s, a senior partner. Aaron stops and begins to walk. He is able to walk in before Gregory enters the room.

INT. LAW FIRM CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room is filled with attorneys, all with their noses in their smart phones. JULIA, early 30s, type A and completely uptight looks up at Aaron and shakes her head in disappointment as he sneaks in and takes a seat in the back. Gregory speaks and all the attorneys perk up.

GREGORY

We have a new client coming in tomorrow. Her case has the -

AARON (V.O.)

I am not a lawyer. Thank god, No.
Like many who came before me...

INT. SMALL AUDITION ROOM - SOMETIME IN THE PAST

There is a table with three auditors on one side who all look tired. There is a piano and a pianist. Aaron is singing "Dumb Dog" from the movie *Annie* and he has a good voice.

AARON

(Singing)

Dumb dog, dumber as they come dog.

AARON (V.O.)

I'm an actor.

We now see that the auditors have a binder on the table that reads "Cujo: The Canine Musical Comedy."

AARON

(Singing)

You're the most presumin' dog
That a human could kn -

AUDITOR

Thank you.

AARON

Thank you for your time.

Aaron grabs his music from the pianist and exits quickly.

AARON (V.O.)
O.K. maybe I'm a *struggling* actor.

INT. LAW FIRM CONFERENCE ROOM

The attorneys are still hanging on to every word that comes out of Gregory's mouth. Aaron looks like he might fall asleep.

AARON (V.O.)
But I'm not a suit, I'm just a
paralegal. If you don't know what
exactly we do, that's OK, neither
did I for the first two years.

INT. NEW YORK LAW FIRM - AARON'S CUBICLE

Aaron is sitting at his desk and urgently typing. There are files and files packed up on his desk.

AARON (V.O.)
We do research.

We see that Aaron is really on facebook.

EXT. NEW YORK COURTHOUSE - SOME OTHER TIME

Aaron, dressed in a suit, is running towards the courthouse.

AARON (V.O.)
We file important documents.

He catches the eye of an attractive man in a suit and trips.
The files fly everywhere.

INT. NEW YORK LAW FIRM - BATHROOM - SOMETIME IN THE PAST

Aaron is crouching down outside of a toilet stall. A Hand pops out from under the stall. Aaron gives it a document and then a pen. The hand signs the document and shoves it back to Aaron.

AARON (V.O.)
Essentially, paralegals are the
lawyer's bitch. Why?

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - SOME OTHER TIME

Aaron is getting blood drawn. The nurse has a hand full of vials to fill.

AARON (V.O.)
The medical benefits. Also, I don't
have to be an actor/waiter.

INT. LAW FIRM CONFERENCE ROOM

The meeting is over. The attorneys are gone except for Julia who is reviewing her notes and making notes on her notes. Aaron rolls his chair over to Julia.

AARON (V.O.)
Oh, and no one at work knows.

AARON
(Sweetly)
So...what was that meeting about?

JULIA
Are you fucking serious?

AARON
You know when Greg opens his mouth
I shut down. It's a Pavlovian
response.

JULIA
You think I like being stuck in a
room with these misogynistic
assholes?

AARON
I think you get all tingley at the
mere mention of a meeting.

Julia hands Aaron her notes

JULIA
You're lucky I like you.

INT. LAW FIRM - LATER THAT DAY.

Aaron walks down the hallway. He peeks into Isaac's cubicle and Isaac is on the Wordpress.com 'how to' page.

ISAAC
I think I'm going to write a blog.

AARON (V.O.)
Isaac is my work husband. A free
loading, immature, burly, no good,
lovable, living above his means,
straight, work husband.

Aaron enters his own cubicle and sits.

AARON
Really?

ISAAC
The interwebs are full of pathetic
losers rambling on and on about
their trivial woes. I can do that.

AARON
That you can.

ISAAC
But until I'm a huge success and
have tons of sponsors -

AARON
No.

ISAAC
You don't even know what I am going
to ask.

AARON
You still owe me for the Gossip
concert, beers last week, and the
fifty I lent you so you can take
out your roommate's ex.

ISAAC
Not my roommate's ex.

AARON
I thought you said th-

ISAAC
They're still together.

AARON
You dirty little whore.

ISAAC
I learned by watching you.

AARON
I'm so proud.

Julia walks by carrying a hand full of documents.

JULIA
Proud of what?

ISAAC
(like it's nothing)
Pounding my roommate's girlfriend
in the resturant bathroom last
night.

JULIA
Classy.

ISAAC
(erotically)
I flipped her over the sink, ripped
of her thong, and fucked the shit
out of her.

Isaac inserts his middle two fingers in his mouth, pulls them
out making a popping sound. Then he makes a gesture like he
is fingering someone.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
I didn't even wash my hands after.

Isaac sniffs his fingers and shoves them in Aaron's face.
Aaron is grossed out and punches Isaac in the arm.

JULIA
When you two pre-schoolers are
done, I need one of you to pull
these cases.

AARON
Sorry, I'm busy.

ISAAC
(lasciviously)
What do you need me to pull?

Julia tentatively gives Isaac the document.

JULIA
Here.

Julia walks away.

ISAAC
You're welcome!

AARON
(to Isaac)
Aren't you going to ask me about my
date?

ISAAC
Dude, don't get your fucking
panties in a wad.

EXT. JOHAN'S YOGA - CHELSEA - EARLY EVENING

Aaron walks in the front door.

AARON (V.O.)
Markus lured me to his yoga class
promising available men. Available,
hot, sweaty, flexible men

INT. JOHAN'S YOGA - CONTINUOUS

Aaron walks into the yoga studio. The GIRL behind the counter
points in the direction of the dressing room.

AARON (V.O.)
This was before Christopher. Now
I'm out 200 bucks and will be
tormented by guys who do the plow
pose.

Aaron turns his head and sees one of the studios filled with
hot shirtless men laying on their backs, asses in the air
with their legs flipped over so that their feet are next to
their ears "plow pose." Aaron sighs.

INT. JOHAN'S YOGA - 10 MINUTES LATER

Aaron walks out of the dressing room wearing his yoga gear.
Markus spots him from across the lobby and runs over.

MARKUS
Hey daddy!

AARON
Three years older does not a daddy
make!

Markus goes in for a hug and pulls up Aaron's shirt.

MARKUS
That hairy chest does.

AARON
(embarrassed)
Stop.

Aaron looks around and notices the lobby filling up with attractive guys stretching.

MARKUS
Come on, it's time for class to start.

Markus pulls Aaron to the yoga studio and walks up to the front of their class. Markus is the instructor. He turns on soft music. Markus speaks, this time his voice is about an octave lower. He speaks with a calm serene yoga-esque vibe.

MARKUS (CONT'D)
Welcome to your first yoga class. I will be here to guide you on your yoga journey. Yogi's believe that -

Aaron stifles a laugh and Markus shoots him a pointed look.

EXT. JOHAN'S YOGA - AFTER CLASS

Markus and Aaron walk out of the yoga studio together.

MARKUS
So, have you told....

Markus can't remember Christopher's name so he just wraps his thumb and middle finger around his wrist (same gesture from the 'lean in').

MARKUS (CONT'D)
...him Yet.

AARON
No, things haven't progressed that far yet. Close, but -

MARKUS
No cigar?

AARON
Is that what the kids are calling it these days?

Markus checks the time.

MARKUS
Shit, I got to go. Jacob is cooking dinner tonight.

AARON
He's going to make an honest man
out of you yet.

MARKUS
(tentatively)
Well...

AARON
Well what?

MARKUS
(tentatively)
He asked me to move in.

AARON
Are you kidding me?

MARKUS
Nope.

AARON
Wow.

MARKUS
I know.

AARON
What are you going to do?

MARKUS
I'm not sure yet

AARON
(matter of fact)
You're not ready.

MARKUS
What does that mean?

AARON
Nevermind.

MARKUS
Excuse me?

AARON
Well, for one thing, you spend more
time on grindr, scruff, and -

MARKUS
You know me, I window shop.

AARON
Yeah, but -

MARKUS
But what?

AARON
It's nothing.

MARKUS
I have to go.

AARON
Wait a sec.

MARKUS
It's ok. I'll talk to you later.

Markus walks away from Aaron.

AARON
Markus...

MARKUS
It's fine.

INT. LAW FIRM - JULIA'S OFFICE - EVENING

Julia is working at her desk. Her office is stark and clean.
Isaac walks in with a binder.

ISAAC
Here are the cases you wanted.

Isaac hands her a binder.

JULIA
Thanks for staying late.

ISAAC
No problem.

Julia tries to grab the binder and it drops to the floor.

JULIA
Oh god, I'm sorry.

ISAAC
I got it.

Their hands touch as they both go for the binder. Their eyes lock and in a flash they are wildly kissing. Isaac throws the contents of her desk to the floor.

He flips Julia over, rips off her underwear, sticks his two fingers in his mouth making a popping sound and starts to finger her. He begins to pound her on the desk and she screams in ecstasy.

INT. LAW FIRM - JULIA'S OFFICE - EVENING

Julia wakes up with one of those screams. Yes, this was a dream. She realizes what just happened and her eyes widen. She looks at her phone which now reads 1:15 am and there are 5 missed calls from Tom.

JULIA

Oh no.

INT. JULIA'S UPPER WEST SIDE APARTMENT - LATE EVENING

A very nice apartment. TOM, Julia's husband, mid 30s and nerdy hot is sitting on the sofa in his pjs watching a recap of a game. The dining table is set with candles and flowers. We hear keys in the door. Julia enters.

JULIA

You're still up?

TOM

(without looking at her)
Dinner is in the oven.

Julia notices the table and the flowers.

JULIA

What's all this?

TOM

(matter of fact)
Our anniversary.

JULIA

(Clearly lying)
Right, our anniversary. I thought we decided to celebrate over the weekend.

TOM

Julia .

JULIA

I'm pretty sure we did.

TOM

Whatever you say.

Tom turns off the tv and starts to walk back to the bedroom.

JULIA

Tom, I'm -

TOM

Sorry? Yeah, I know.

INT. LAW FIRM - AARON'S CUBICLE - THE NEXT DAY

Aaron is sitting at his desk, he checks his phone and it reads 5:10pm. He gets up and starts to get ready to leave for his date. Isaac appears.

ISAAC

Leaving so soon?

AARON

Off to meet Chris.

Isaac goes to his desk and opens his top drawer and reveals a stash of condoms.

ISAAC

Do you need any condoms? You never know where he's been.

Aaron is a little taken back by this but tries to recover.

AARON

I think we'll be fine.

ISAAC

You best heed the advice my 82 year old grandmother bestowed upon me.

AARON

And what is that?

ISAAC

"Cover your stump before you hump."
Well, sometimes she would go with
"If you're in heat, package your meat."

Aaron grabs his bag, starts to walk out and forces a smile.

AARON

Good night Isaac.

ISAAC

Or "Don't be a fool, vulcanize your tool"

Aaron is gone.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
(To himself)
I never really understood that one.

INT. MANHATTAN RESTURANT - DIRECTLY AFTER

Christopher is sitting at a bar with two drinks in front of him. Aaron enters the resturant and walks over to Christopher.

CHRISTOPHER
Hey sexy.

Aaron sits down and Christopher flashes a smile.

CHRISTOPHER (CONT'D)
I got you a drink.

Christopher passes him a whiskey ginger.

AARON
You remembered.

CHRISTOPHER
Of course.

Aaron takes an extra large sip for courage.

CHRISTOPHER (CONT'D)
You hungry?

AARON
I'm ok.

CHRISTOPHER
Good.

Christopher throws back his drink in one gulp.

CHRISTOPHER (CONT'D)
(playfully)
Well then, you wanna get out of here?

AARON
What? Now? I just got -

Christopher gets up and starts to walk out of the bar.

CHRISTOPHER
(without looking back)
You coming?

Aaron swigs his drink and rushes after him.

EXT. RESTUARNT - CONTINUOUS

Aaron catches up to Christopher. Christopher pins him up against the wall and kisses him deeply. Christopher abruptly walks away and disappears down into a subway station. Aaron follows

INT. SUBWAY STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Christopher is waiting for Aaron. Christopher grabs Aaron and kisses him passionately all the way to the turnstile.

INT. SUBWAY CAR - DIRECTLY AFTER

Christopher and Aaron sit side by side. They don't touch or look at each other. There is a family with four small kids sitting across from them. Christopher touches Aaron's leg and Aaron brushes his hand away.

EXT. CHRISTOPHER'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DIRECTLY AFTER

Christopher and Aaron run up the stairs.

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

An impeccably decorated one-bedroom apartment. Trendy yet functional. Christopher leads Aaron to his bedroom, stopping to make out the entire way. Aaron tries to stop.

AARON
Wait, wait, wait....

Christopher stops kissing Aaron and sits him on the bed.

CHRISTOPHER
Is everything ok? Too fast? Do I
have bad breath?

AARON
No, no you're minty fresh.

Christopher starts to unbutton Aaron's shirt.

CHRISTOPHER

Good.

Christopher straddles Aaron and pushes him onto the bed and begins kissing Aaron's ears.

AARON

I need to tell you something.

CHRISTOPHER

I'm listening.

Christopher begins to kiss Aaron's neck.

AARON

I'm trying to be serious.

Christopher makes his way down to Aaron's chest.

CHRISTOPHER

(playfully)

I'll show you serious.

And with that he starts to kiss Aaron's nipple. Aaron shakes in ecstasy and blurts out.

AARON

I'm positive.

CHRISTOPHER

What?

AARON

I'm HIV-positive.

Christopher is shocked.

AARON (CONT'D)

I was hoping to tell you at the restaurant before...

Christopher dismounts from Aaron and lays on the bed and gazes at the ceiling.

AARON (CONT'D)

...before this happened.

CHRISTOPHER

I never kissed anyone who was...

Christopher's voice trails off into nothing. They sit in silence. Christopher doesn't move.

AARON
I'm healthy. I'm undetectable.

Christopher is stuck in his vegetative state. After what seems like an eternity, Aaron breaks the silence.

AARON (CONT'D)
Are you ok?

Nothing from Christopher. Aaron stares at him and has no idea how to handle this situation.

AARON (CONT'D)
Chris?

More silence.

AARON (CONT'D)
Well, I...um...I guess I am going to go.

Still nothing from Christopher. After a second, Aaron grabs his discarded clothes heads for the door. Christopher remains still.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF CHRISTOPHER'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Aaron shuts the door and starts to put on his shoes and stops. He looks as if someone has punched him in the stomach.

AARON
Dammit.

EXT. SHOTS OF NEW YORK CITY - EARLY MORNING

The sun breaks over the isle of Manhattan. Gorgeous and serene.

INT. GYM - EARLY MORNING.

Aaron is ferociously running on a tread mill. He abruptly stops and holds on to the machine. He is lost in thought. Then all of a sudden he hits the machine in frustration. He takes a deep breath and starts to run.

INT. LAW FIRM - THE NEXT DAY

Aaron sits at his desk working away. Isaac walks by to his cubicle.

ISAAC
So, how was last night?

Aaron is trying not to engage Isaac.

AARON
It was ok.

ISAAC
Ok? That's all I get?

Aaron nods.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Come on, share the deets.

Aaron realizes this conversation is not going to end unless he ends it. He stops working and turns to face Isaac.

AARON
Christopher and I...we're not going to work out.

ISAAC
Shit man, I'm sorry.

AARON
It's ok, but I have to cite check this by noon.

ISAAC
Are both of you...

Isaac makes a hand gesture to represent two bottoms

ISAAC (CONT'D)
Or...

He makes a hand gesture to represent two tops.

AARON
What? No...no...I just don't want to..

ISAAC
What happened last night?

AARON
...talk about it.

Aaron tries to resume working. Julia walks by carrying various files and she overhears.

JULIA
Talk about what? Are you ok?

AARON
(to Julia)
Nothing happened. I'm fine

ISAAC
(To Julia)
That cheese guy dumped Aaron.

JULIA
What guy?

ISAAC
You know, the cheese guy that Aaron
been dating.

Julia stares at Isaac blankly.

ISAAC (CONT'D)
The guy from Gouda?

JULIA
God, when did that happen?

ISAAC
Last night!

JULIA
(to Aaron)
What happened last night?

Aaron finally breaks.

AARON
Nothing happened last night! Jesus
fucking crist, can you guys just
stop?! You don't need to know every
fucking thing that happens to me.

Aaron storms off. Julia and Isaac are shocked.

EXT. R SUBWAY STOP, STEINWAY, ASTORIA - NIGHT

Aaron exits the subway and walks a to his apartment.

INT. AARON'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

AARON
Honey, I'm home.

He is clearly alone. Aaron throws his messenger bag on the couch and sinks into his couch.

INT. AARON'S APARTMENT - SATURDAY EVENING

Aaron is sitting on his couch wearing comfy pjs bottoms and a tank-top. He is watching his favorite Jane Austen movie, the 2007 BBC version of Persuasion. On the coffee table, there is a half empty bottle of red wine and a plate with the slab of Gouda. It has bite marks on it. There are delivery containers and chocolate wrappers strewn around the room.

From the TV: Persuasion

ANNE ELLIOT

Captain, Captain, I am in receipt
of your proposal and I'm minded to
accept it. Thank you.

CAPTAIN WENTWORTH

Are you quite certain?

ANNE ELLIOT

I am. I am determined. I will and
nothing, you may be sure, will ever
persuade me otherwise.

He picks up the block of cheese and very reluctantly he takes a bite out of it. He enjoys it much more than he wants to and takes another bite. He grabs bottle of wine and takes a big swing from it. There is a loud knock at the door.

AARON

(startled)

Yeah?

MARKUS (O.S.)

Turn off that damn Jane Austen
movie.

Aaron desperately searches for the remote control.

AARON

I'm not watching anything.

MARKUS (O.S.)

You know I can hear it, right?

Aaron turns the couch cushions upside down and still he can't find the remote.

AARON

That's my neighbors, they can be so damn loud.

MARKUS (O.S.)

Open the goddamn door. You know how much it took me to come to Queens.

Aaron finds the remote, turns off the TV, and walks to the door to let Markus in. Markus looks Aaron up and down.

MARKUS (CONT'D)

Oh honey, what happened?

Aaron returns to the couch and tries to disappear in it. Markus sits down next to him.

AARON

How did you know?

MARKUS

If things would've went well you would've told me. So I just figured.

AARON

Sorry about the other day.

MARKUS

It's ok.

AARON

I *am* happy for you and Jacob.

Markus changes the subject.

MARKUS

I know, I know....What did he say?

AARON

He didn't say anything.

MARKUS

What do you mean?

AARON

(getting agitated)

He didn't say anything. He completely shut down. Like he was some sort of cylon or cyborg and I pulled his plug!

MARKUS
Cylon? Cyborg? How did we ever
become friends?

Aaron stares at Markus.

MARKUS (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. Go on.

AARON
I didn't know what to do, so I just
left.

Markus notices the slab of Gouda and eats a slice of cheese.

MARKUS
Was this from him?

AARON
Yeah.

MARKUS
God, that's amazing.

AARON
I know. I KNOW! It's amazing, he's
amazing. You're all fucking
amazing! I can't find a half decent
guy to stick around. I can't book
an acting job to save my life and
all I have is this fucking AMAZING
CHEESE! I JUST...just...just...

MARKUS
Just what?

AARON
(defeated)
I don't know.

MARKUS
Are you finished?

AARON
I think so.

MARKUS
Get up!

Aaron doesn't move.

MARKUS (CONT'D)
(Militantly)
Get your ass up.

AARON
What?

MARKUS
I am taking you out.

AARON
No.

MARKUS
Yes.

AARON
Now?

Markus pulls the blanket off of Aaron and forces him up.

MARKUS
Now!

Aaron gets up and walks to his room to get ready. Markus picks up and eats another slice of cheese.

MARKUS (CONT'D)
I want to make love to this cheese

AARON
Shut up!

INT. MANHATTAN GAY BAR - LATER THAT EVENING

Aaron is slumped over the bar not wanting to be there. Markus is moving to the music. They have had a few drinks already. An attractive GUY comes up to talk to Aaron.

GUY IN BAR
Not having fun?

AARON
(sarcastically)
Loads.

GUY IN BAR
Can I buy you a drink? Maybe we could change that.

The Guy tries to cozy next to Aaron. Aaron is not happy about this proposition.

AARON
I wouldn't get too close to me if I were you.

GUY IN BAR
And why not?

AARON
Just walk away before you lose your
ability to speak.

GUY IN BAR
What?

AARON
Or maybe I'll pull the plug on you
too!

Markus tries to step in, but it is too late. The guy leaves.

MARKUS
Seriously Aaron? Don't make me!

AARON
You wouldn't.

Markus looks at Aaron and sets his drink on the bar.

MARKUS
Snap out of it

Markus slaps Aaron.

AARON
Oh...ok.

MARKUS
Ok?

Aaron finishes his drink.

AARON
Come one, let's dance.

MARKUS
Now that's what I'm talking about.

Aaron and Markus head to the crowded dance floor. They start
dancing. All of a sudden Aaron stops Markus.

AARON
Thank you.

They hug and continue dancing.

INT. LAW FIRM - END OF THE WORK DAY

Julia is sitting in her office working away. George enters her office carrying a redwell full of documents.

GEORGE

What are you working on?

JULIA

The Mixto complaint.

GEORGE

I need you to change gears and prepare the Rogg responses for Quinlan.

JULIA

I thought Sean was drafting them.

George winks at her and hands her the files.

GEORGE

I know that you will put in the amount of time to do them correctly.

JULIA

Not a problem.

GEORGE

You're my girl.

George exits and Julie rolls her eyes and places the documents on a large pile on her desk. Aaron approaches carrying his coat and bag, knocks on her door frame.

AARON

You're my girl?

JULIA

A little misogyny and incompetence to complete my day.

AARON

Another day that ends in Y.

Julia laughs.

AARON (CONT'D)

I wanted to apologize for the other day.

JULIA

No apology needed. I'm sorry about that guy.

Aaron steps into her office and closes the door.

AARON

It's alright. Boys are stupid.

JULIA

Aren't we all?

AARON

Yeah, but the thing about 'that boy' he literally stopped talking to me because...

Aaron contemplates telling her he is HIV-positive. Isaac burst into Julia's office.

ISAAC

So, who's up for ha-...am I interrupting?

JULIA

Always.

AARON

No..no...what's up?

ISAAC

Happy hour?

AARON

Sure, but can we go somewhere mixed?

ISAAC

Why, you wanna take my Grandmother's advice on break ups?

AARON

The best way to get over someone is to get under someone?

ISAAC

Exactly.

AARON

Jules?

JULIA

I can't. George just gave me these rog responses to draft.

AARON
When are they due?

JULIA
Next Wednesday.

Aaron and Isaac exchange a look and they both try to pull her out of her chair. She struggles with them.

ISAAC
(to Julia)
God, you need to loosen up.

Julia retreats at Isaac touch.

JULIA
You don't touch me!

ISAAC
Wow. Ok. Sorry.

Trying not make a big deal about her outburst.

JULIA
Ok, ok. One drink.

ISAAC
Great. I can't stay too long. I
have date with my roommate's
girlfriend.

JULIA
Of course you do.

INT. AARON'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Aaron is sitting on his couch with his laptop open, reading a pop-culture/music blog. He gets a new email notification. He opens up his inbox and sees a new email from Christopher.

"I wanted to apologize for how I reacted the other night. But I want to make clear that I cannot see you any more. I hope I don't come across like a dick by feeling like this and I know this sounds awful but I won't be able to kiss you again or blow you. Besides there must be other positive guys you can date. All the best Christopher"

Aaron hits reply and starts to type and then decides to delete the reply. He takes a deep breath and deletes Christopher's email. Aaron returns to what he was reading and he scrolls over the icon at the top that reads "Create your own blog." Aaron He hesitates for a moment, clicks it and starts writing.

EXT. BROOKLYN STREET - EVENING

Isaac enters an old apartment building.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Isaac walks up the steps to the third floor and sees all of his belongings in the hall.

ISAAC

What the...

Isaac tries his keys in the door and the locks have been changed. He bangs on the door.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Matt! MATT! Let me the fuck in!
Come on man.

The door opens a crack. We can see MATT's eye and lips.

MATT

You're three months behind with
rent. You fucked my girlfriend and
you ate my yogurt. It's time for
you to leave.

Matt shuts and bolts the door. Isaac kicks the door one last time. He goes over to his stuff and starts to pack a bag.

INT. AARON'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Aaron is typing on his computer. We see the words as we here the voice over.

AARON (V.O.)

I don't know how I got it and I
don't really care to know. This is
who I am now...

EXT. STREETS OF NEW YORK - LATE AFTERNOON.

Aaron walks out of the subway station.

AARON (V.O.)

...And it hasn't changed my life
much. I mean physically. I take one
pill a day. That's it. It's
nothing. I'm healthy. I'm fine.

INT. JOHAN'S YOGA - DIRECTLY AFTER

End of a yoga class. Aaron is in the back finally getting the hang of it. The teacher a beautiful young woman.

YOGA INSTRUCTOR
It is time for you to make your way
to shavasana, corpse pose.

Everyone lays on their backs, arms at their sides and with their palms up. The instructor makes her way from student to student correcting their position.

YOGA INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)
Deep breath in and deep breath out.

AARON (V.O.)
Though sometimes I'm hit with a
single thought.

YOGA INSTRUCTOR
Try and quiet your mind.

AARON (V.O.)
This thought strikes fast.

YOGA INSTRUCTOR
Try to break free from the forces
of the outside world...

AARON (V.O.)
I'm HIV-positive.

Cut to: An image of the AIDS quilt that flickers through Aaron's mind.

YOGA INSTRUCTOR
...and relax.

Cut to: an image of a protestor with a sign that says either "Gay Rights = Aids and Hell" or "Aids isn't a disease it's a cure"

YOGA INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)
Release the tension....

Cut to an image of an AIDS patient in the 80s.

The yoga instructor begins to massage Aaron's temples.

YOGA INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)
Find your truth.

The yoga instructor moves to another student. A single tear streams down Aaron's cheek.

AARON (V.O.)
I'm HIV-positive

INT. JOHAN'S YOGA LOBBY - DIRECTLY AFTER

Aaron has changed out of his cloths. He's not sad but very solemn. The instructor sweetly puts her hand on his shoulder.

YOGA INSTRUCTOR
Good class today.

AARON
Yes it was. Thank you.

Aaron leaves the yoga studio.

EXT. JOHAN'S YOGA - CONTINUOUS

Aaron walks outside and stops to feel the breeze on his face.

AARON (V.O.)
I'm a 34 year old, HIV positive,
single gay man, living in New York
City.

INT. AARON'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Aaron is typing on his laptop. We see the words he types as we hear his voice over:

AARON (V.O.)
Any one of those would be daunting
on their own.

EXT. JOHAN'S YOGA - AFTER YOGA CLASS

Aaron starts to walk towards the N/R train.

AARON (V.O.)
Adding them all together makes for
an absurd dating lif-

Aaron bumps into someone and is knocked to the ground.

AARON
Oh god, I'm so sorry.

Aaron tries to get his bearings and notices that he bumped into is an incredibly handsome guy with bright blue eyes.

BLUE-EYED GUY

It's ok.

The BLUE EYED GUY offers his hand to help Aaron up.

AARON

You would think I would be a little more centered after yoga, but no, not me.

BLUE-EYED GUY

Do you practice at Johan?

AARON

Yeah, I just started.

BLUE-EYED GUY

I'm headed there now. Maybe I will see you in a class sometime.

AARON

Yeah...maybe.

The Blue-Eyed Guy starts to walk away.

EXT. NEW YORK LAW FIRM - EVENING

Isaac walks into the office building carrying a backpack and a duffle bag.

INT. NEW YORK LAW FIRM - DIRECTLY AFTER

Isaac walks into his cubicle. He opens up his duffle bag and gathers some of his clothes to make a pillow on the floor. He lays down and tries to get comfortable and he can't.

INT. JACOB'S APARTMENT - EVENING

JACOB, early 30s and Jewish, sits on the couch, curled up with Markus. They are watching tv.

MARKUS

I don't think I should move in here with you.

Jacob looks at Markus confused.

MARKUS (CONT'D)
(reluctantly)
But...we can find our own place,
together.

Jacob kisses Markus. Markus starts to look very apprehensive about his decision.

INT. MANHATTAN RESTURANT - EVENING

Julia is sitting at a table with Tom. They are eating and not speaking. Julia gets up from the table and gestures with her head.

TOM
Are you ok?

Julia makes a subtle version of Isaac's fingering gestures. Tom is startled. He quickly gets up and follows.

INT. MANHATTAN RESTURANT BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Julia enters the bathroom and pulls Tom in and locks the door. She hops up on the sink and kisses Tom.

JULIA
Rip off my underwear.

TOM
What?

JULIA
(demanding)
Rip off my goddamn underwear!

Tom rips off her underwear, Julia throws her head back in ecstasy and hits her head on the sink. Tom stops to make sure she is ok.

JULIA (CONT'D)
Don't stop.

EXT. JOHAN'S YOGA - EVENING

Aaron watches the Blue-eyed Guy and he turns around one last time and smiles at Aaron.

INT. AARON'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Aaron is typing on his laptop, finishing his first blog entry. He titles the blog: Positively Dating and hits publish. There is a knock. Aaron leaves his laptop open on the coffee table and goes to answer the door.

AARON

Markus, you didn't have to come all
they way back to Queens. I told you
I'm alrig -

He opens the door and is shocked at who he sees. We don't see.

FADE OUT.