

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CUPCAKE

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

DANA (20's), short and skinny, wakes up to her phone VIBRATING. She quickly silences it. She looks over to make sure her boyfriend SAL (30), tall and well built, is still asleep. She sighs with relief. Her phone reads 5am.

She slips out of bed, quietly pulls out a pile of clothing from under the bed. Changes into the clothes quickly. Grabs her wallet, phone and quietly shoves her keys in her pocket. She tip-toes to Sal's side and turns OFF his alarm.

EXT. APARTMENT - DAY

Dana opens UBER on her phone and puts in the address of a BAKERY. The fee comes up as \$20.

DANA  
\$40 for a cupcake? Great! Guess I'm walking.

It's sunrise. Beautiful morning, Dana's excited and has a skip in her step.

EXT. BAKERY #1 - DAY

Big closed sign.

DANA  
No, no, no, no, no!

She runs up to the glass door and peers in. Dark inside, no one's there.

Dana pounds on the door in frustration as the store hours read 5am. She checks her watch, it reads 5:45am. She looks inside again and longingly looks at the cupcakes.

Gives up, looks for another bakery on her phone. Sees there's one 10 blocks away. Sighs.

As she walks away, a CAB pulls up and the WORKER runs to the door and turns the closed sign to OPEN.

INT. BAKERY #2 - DAY

No one inside besides the cashier. Dana eagerly walks to the counter.

The CASHIER (30's), short and heavysset looks down at her phone, has earbuds in.

Dana stands there, waits impatiently.

Puts her wallet on the counter. Nothing. Clears her throat.

DANA  
Ummm...excuse me?

No response from the Cashier who is bouncing around to her music.

DANA (CONT'D)  
EXCUSE ME?

The Cashier jumps and yells out.

CASHIER  
GAH!

Dana jumps.

CASHIER (CONT'D)  
You scared me!

DANA  
Sorry...

Takes out her earbuds-

CASHIER  
What do you want-

Catches herself- coughs.

CASHIER (CONT'D)  
Ummm how can I help you?

DANA  
I'd like one cupcake please.

The Cashier impatiently points to the dozens of cupcakes-

CASHIER  
Which one?

Dana's eyes light up. She looks through the glass at each cupcake and reads the descriptions aloud to herself. She's torn.

DANA  
Ummm...that one.

She points.

The Cashier puts on a glove, goes to grab the cupcake.

DANA (CONT'D)  
No, wait. Actually that one.

Cashier rolls her eyes. Goes to grab the other cupcake.

DANA (CONT'D)  
NO! Wait! That one!

The Cashier huffs and puffs. Goes to grab it, stares cautiously and expectantly at Dana.

CASHIER  
This one?

DANA  
Uh huh.

CASHIER  
Are you sure?

DANA  
Ummm...

She looks around anxious.

CASHIER  
Yes...?

DANA

Yes!

CASHIER  
Wonderful!

DANA  
Can you write happy birthday on it?

CASHIER  
On this tiny cupcake?

Dana nods her head excitedly.

CASHIER (CONT'D)  
It's kind of small...

DANA  
Can't you write it small?

Cashier rolls her eyes.

DANA

Thanks!

The Cashier presents it. Dana smiles widely. It's perfect!

DANA

Can I have a candle?

The Cashier has had just about enough. She grabs a candle from the counter and sticks it right in the middle of the cupcake and ruins the "Happy Birthday!"

Dana frowns.

The Cashier smiles, satisfied with herself. She then plops the cupcake in a brown paper bag.

DANA (CONT'D)

Do you have nicer packaging?

CASHIER

Not for a single cupcake.

Dana gives up, puts money on the counter and walks out.

The cashier finally plops down and puts her earbuds back in.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Dana tries to walk with the bag down by her side but it bumps into her leg repeatedly. She awkwardly holds it up and walks down the street with it in her arms.

Dana walks in the direction of a HOMELESS MAN (70's), dirty, sits next to his shopping cart.

HOMELESS MAN

Whatcha got in that bag? Breakfast for me?

DANA

Oh, sorry. No, I can't give this to you.

HOMELESS MAN

But I'm hungry.

DANA

Ummm...

Checks her wallet. Only a \$20. She sighs.

DANA (CONT'D)

Umm here...

His face lights up. She hands him the money. She can't let it go. They play a little tug of war. He yanks hard and smiles widely.

HOMELESS MAN

Have a wonderful morning.

Dana tries to smile. She walks off and feels a drop of water. Puts her hand to her head. It starts to rain. She stops and looks up to curse the sky.

Starts really raining. Dana runs toward an awning in the distance. She tries to gently stuff the paper bag under her shirt.

Dana reaches the awning and checks the bag. It's all wet.

The rain lightens up a little bit. She decides to walk home.

A car drives by and drives over a puddle. She sees this and proactively turns to protect the cupcake.

She's soaked. Dana yells-

DANA

You have got to be kidding me!

She shakes it off and continues on her mission. She walks, protectively shielding the cupcake.

She crosses the busy street when a CAT walks in front of her.

DANA (CONT'D)

Kitty!

Dana bends down to pet it. She puts her bag off to the side. The Cat walks over and rubs against it, kneads it. Dana gasps and grabs it up quickly.

She pats the cat on its head and walks off.

Dana reaches her block. The house is in sight. She walks faster, gets in front of her house.

Dana lets out a sigh of relief. She walks fast toward her house when she TRIPS over a stick and falls forward. She catches herself but the bag goes flying.

DANA (CONT'D)

Nooo!

The bag slams to the ground.

Dana runs to the bag. She opens it up and is distraught over what she sees. The cupcake is destroyed.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

The smashed and crumbled cupcake is displayed on a plate. Dana sits next to it. Looks at it with despair.

Sal walks into the kitchen. Rubs his eyes.

SAL

Babe, where have you been? I tried calling you.

He sees the cupcake and sees her reaction.

DANA

I wanted to surprise you.

He smiles widely.

SAL

I love it.

DANA

You do not.

Moved by the loving gesture and seeing Dana's disappointment, Sal takes the cupcake and shoves it in his mouth. He grabs the back of her head and kisses her. Cupcake crumbs spill all over. They laugh hysterically.

Sal pulls back.

SAL

I love it.

DANA

Happy birthday.

Dana smiles and kisses him on his cupcake covered lips.

FADE OUT.