

THE UMBRELLA MAN

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

JAMES, a handsome man 22 dressed for occasion, sits alone at a two-person high top with a seltzer in the middle of the romantic restaurant. SARAH, the waitress 22 serving him, approaches.

SARAH

Alright, are we now ready to place an order for some food?

JAMES

No I'm sorry, but I'm sure I'll be ready to order in a few more minutes.

SARAH

Okay. The kitchen closes up in thirty minutes just to let you know.

JAMES

Thank you very much. I apologize for holding you up here.

Sarah chuckles honestly and then starts to turn and walk away with a discerned, sympathetic look.

SARAH

Look, I've seen this situation too many times. I don't mean to be blunt, but whoever you are waiting for isn't coming.

James lowers his head and sarah continues away.

JAMES

You know what's kinda funny?

Sarah turns back towards James.

JAMES (CONT'D)

My family used to call me the umbrella man. You know the superstition of bad luck associated with opening an umbrella indoors?

SARAH

Sure.

JAMES

They called me the umbrella man  
because I have always been  
incredibly unlucky. Go figure...  
Anyways, what's your name if you  
don't mind me asking.

SARAH

My name is Sarah.

JAMES

Well, Sarah, I'm sorry for wasting  
your time here I am sure you  
probably wanna get off and go home-

SARAH

What's your name?

JAMES

I'm James.

SARAH

Honestly James, this place  
typically isn't this uneventful. I  
don't mind that you are here I am  
getting home early regardless. I  
mean most the time we got a few  
parties that stay around even after  
the kitchen is closed.

JAMES

Lucky you.

Sarah shrugs.

SARAH

I guess so!

JAMES

What did you mean earlier when you  
said you've seen this situation too  
many times?

SARAH

Usually once or twice a month we'll  
get a nice guy like you to come in  
expecting someone to show up and  
they never do. Unlike you, those  
guys will leave about fourty-five  
minutes or so after they get here.  
So I wonder why you stick around.

James sits up tall.

JAMES

Well you see, the girl I was meeting tonight, Carmen, she told me that she was going to be a little late tonight. You know, work and everything?

Sarah continuously nods her head. After James stops talking Sarah smirks at him

SARAH

Mhmm, I see. And what time exactly was this date with Carmen supposed to take place?

James grins and briefly turns his shaking head away from Sarah before looking back at her.

JAMES

Yeah yeah I know.

James pauses and looks down at the table for a second.

JAMES (CONT'D)

We were both supposed to be here an hour and a half ago.

Sarah laughs.

SARAH

You're kidding! Why do you wait here so long for her to show up?

JAMES

Well, I am not usually in town. And despite this being my spring week off from school, this is really my only free night. Just got other commitments and responsibilities and a lot to study actually, so I guess I just wanted to believe she would eventually show up since I cleared my night for this date.

SARAH

Yeah I get it. I work every day this week for my spring break, I'm a student too. Where do you go?

JAMES

Michigan state.

Sarah takes a step and her jaw drops a little.

SARAH

No way! I go to MSU as well!

JAMES

No kidding! I mean what are the

odds of that? I wonder how we've never met. What do you study?

SARAH

I study Journalism, and it's honestly such a large campus it makes sense to me we haven't crossed each other at school. What dorm hall are you in?

James rolls his eyes and swipes his hand and laughs.

JAMES

Ahh, I'm banned from living in the dorm halls.

SARAH

Oh no, what did you do?

JAMES

It's actually a funny story. During my sophomore year, a buddy of mine lost a bet and he had to sprint down the halls of a couple floors in the Hubbard residence building and of course I wanted to record it, so we decided to do it sometime around 2:30 in the morning and because I am always so lucky, he ended running right into an R.O. Who popped out at the end of the hall.

Sarah laughs.

SARAH

Oh my god I remember that! That's hilarious, Your friend is the speed streaker!

JAMES

He still get's called that to this day.

Sarah and James laugh together for a moment, followed by some brief silence

JAMES (CONT'D)

Anyways, I'll see myself out now so you can finish up and get out of here-

SARAH

Well, I'm pretty much just waiting

for the kitchen to close at this point, so you aren't really holding up the show.

James head flicks between Sarah and the open chair once, before he opens his hand and gestures towards the open seat.

JAMES

Well then Sarah, how would you like to join me for dinner.

Sarah's head slightly turns. She smiles and nods.

SARAH

I would love to, as long as you don't have a date waiting for you.

James laughs along Sarah's sarcasm, she sits down in the chair and they look at each other.

JAMES

So, did you grow up from around here?

SARAH

Yep, I've lived in Warlington with my family my whole life. How about you?

JAMES

Nah, I moved here from Colorado six years so I wasn't a big high school guy since I joined the party my junior year.

SARAH

Speaking of, where did you graduate from?

JAMES

John Dargan high, and you?

SARAH

Warlington high, class of 17.

JAMES

So then you graduate from MSU this spring as well?

SARAH

Yeah, it's crazy how it all went by so fast isn't it?

James nods his head.

SARAH (CONT'D)

So what's your plan after you graduate?

JAMES

Well, maybe I live local, but I'll be working downtown.

SARAH

Nice.

JAMES

How about you?

SARAH

Fortunately I've interned some over last summer at The Tennessean, so I'm pretty confident that I'll be working downtown as well.

JAMES

That's great. I hardly ever read, but obviously you couldn't score a bigger company to work for in Nashville. Honestly it's unbelievable how similar our lives are.

SARAH

Yeah, it's nice to be reminded that the world really isn't that big.

James nods his head. James looks down and sloppily shuffles his hands together and then looks back up with a soft smile and light face.

JAMES

Hey Sarah, I really am thankful for-

CARMEN, James' original date 21 wearing a dark purple sweater and leggings, walks through the front door behind James. Carmen cuts James off

CARMEN

James?

James head snaps and his body rotates toward the door while his face crunches.

JAMES

Hey Carmen.

Carmen starts walking over to the high top. James quickly rotates back to face Sarah.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Sarah, I wanted to say-

Sarah cuts him and begins to stand up to walk away.

SARAH

James, thanks for talking to me and keeping me busy it really has been nice to meet you. I'll be back in a few minutes to take your guys order, and as you know the kitchen closes in...

Sarah quickly checks her watch

SARAH (CONT'D)

Nineteen-twenty minutes ish so do try to be quick in deciding.

Sarah turns and walks away towards the kitchen as James watches with a sinking face. Carmen sits down where Sarah sat and James slowly looks back to Carmen as his head hangs slightly low.

CARMEN

I am so so sorry for showing up this late, they kept me in at work unusually late. Honestly, I don't even understand how you stayed here this whole time. I just wish we could start this whole thing over-

James cuts Carmen off

JAMES

It's alright Carmen. I don't mean to rush you, but like she said the kitchen is closing pretty soon here so have a look at the menu.

CARMEN

Oh yeah, you can call me Cammy by the way. It's what all my friends and family call me.

James loses eye contact with Carmen and he rubs his face with his hand while he slowly shakes his head and holds a small grin. James makes eye contact with Carmen.

JAMES

My friends and family always call me the umbrella man.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END