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VERA OR SAMANTHA 7A

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Based on

VERA OR SAMANTHA
By
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CHEEKY

Cheeky!!!!

Cheeky parades his schtick along a line of squealing Fans.

CHEEKY (CONT'D)

(Working up to frenzy)

You! Yes you, you and you!

Cheeky moves between Sam and Vera, giving Vera the wink. The entourage acts like a wedge forcing Sam and Vera apart, moving Sam into the middle of the lobby.

Sam finds herself looking across the divide to her star-struck teenage sister, VERA.

VERA

That's... do you... that's... like... OMG!

Words fail her. Vera resorts to bizarre gestures, fanning herself to be still her beating heart.

Fans pursue Cheeky through the gap, increasing the divide between the sisters.

Sam tracks Cheeky's exit to the lobby door. Cheeky turns back to the crowd.

CHEEKY

Cheeky!!!!

The FANS go wild and pursue! Cheeky and entourage sweep-out the door but someone else catches Sam's eye.

In the flurry of hotel activity, a MYSTERIOUS MAN stands perfectly still near the door. His face is shrouded in darkness. Two red eyes lock onto Sam's.

A glowing red haze emanates from the man. Sam is transfixed until a commanding voice, breaks the spell.

DAD (O.C.)

Sam, Sam, SAMANTHA!

Sam turns to discover her stressed-out DAD at the hotel's concierge desk. Their father's voice also lifts Vera's head from her smart device which she's frantically updating about her brush with Cheeky.

Sam now looks tiny in the vast expanse of the busy city hotel.

DAD (CONT'D)

(To Sam)

Are you OK?

Sam appears disoriented.

A HOTEL EMPLOYEE, repeatedly swiping a credit card at the counter, tries to regain Dad's attention. *

EMPLOYEE
Sir... Sir!?

Dad turns back to the employee and politely bids him, 'wait one' with his finger then turns to Vera. *

DAD
(Insistent)
Watch her, you. *

Dad checks Sam again then turns back to the concierge desk. *

VERA
(To Sam)
Psst, Sam! *

Sam looks to Vera. Vera uses a military style communication, pointing one finger at Sam and two back at her own eyes, stating.

VERA (CONT'D)
Don't wander. *

Vera waits for a nod of acknowledgement from Sam then turns her attention back to her smart tablet. *

COUNTER *

Dad drums his fingers on the counter. *

The Employee swipes Dad's credit card again but to no avail. *

EMPLOYEE
It's not working. *

The long line of Waiting Patrons behind Dad grow impatient. *

DAD
Try again. *

He does. A RUSSIAN PATRON calls out from the queue. *

RUSSIAN PATRON
We are waiting! *

Dad ignores him. *

EMPLOYEE
I'm sorry... *

DAD
We **have to be** on this connector. *

EMPLOYEE

I appreciate that, Sir, but without
a valid card I cannot book it.

*
*

A stern looking CONCIERGE fronts.

*

CONCIERGE

Is there a problem?

DAD

No problem.

*
*

DAD (CONT'D)

(To Employee)

Please, one more.

*
*
*

The Concierge gives the nod. The Employee tries again.

*

A sudden power surge sends a spike through the overhead TV
monitors reporting the news. The hotel lights flicker and a
sound of disquiet spreads among the Waiting Patrons.

*
*
*

EMPLOYEE

Wo.

*
*

The Employee lifts his hands from the console, pauses a
moment till the surge settles then cautiously swipes again.
He shakes his head to the Concierge.

*
*
*

EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)

(To Concierge)

No.

*
*
*

CONCIERGE

I'm sorry, Sir. Please move aside.

*
*

DAD

That was the surge! It was your own
power supply, try it now.

*
*
*

FOYER

*

Jackhammers from outside rattle the frame.

*

Sam turns to the source of the noise, outside. Halogen work-
lights depict unseen WORKERS as long shadows. Beside the
exit, the Mysterious Man stares transfixed at Sam. Sam is
drawn to him.

*

Dad and the Concierge continue the dispute behind a now
increasingly impatient line of Waiting Patrons. The lights
and monitors continue to intermittently flicker.

*
*

CONCIERGE

There's nothing we can do.

*

DAD

We've got to be on that flight!

*

Jackhammers continue to punctuate the conversation making progress impossible. *

CONCIERGE *

Do I have to call security? *

DAD *

No. *

CONCIERGE *

(To employee) *

Call security. *

The Employee hits the intercom button. *

DAD *

I have to be on that flight! *

EMPLOYEE *

(To microphone) *

Security to Concierge desk. *

DAD *

Listen to me, listen to what I'm saying to you! *

Dad slams his fist into the desk and as he does the lights abruptly go out and the jackhammers finally fall silent. *

RUSSIAN PATRON *

What just happened? *

For a moment, the only light comes from the external construction lighting, filtering in through the outside mist. *

Flickering emergency lights re-light the room. *

Vera looks up. Everyone looks up. *

The Concierge checks the phone. It's dead. Everything and everyone's electronics are dead. *

We hear from outside the sound of screeching tires. A car slams into an array of portable construction-lights. *

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS, run for their lives, past the window. The fallen work-lights break the mist creating an eerie shadow puppet show as they pass. *

Dad looks for Sam. She's vanished along with the Mysterious man. The automatic lobby door slides shut. He turns to Vera. *

DAD *

(To Vera) *

Where's Sam? *

VERA
(Looking)
I don't know.

DAD
What do you mean you don't know?

VERA
I don't know!!

Dad turns back to the Employee and Concierge. *

DAD
(To Employee)
Give me that. *

He grabs the credit card out of the hand of the Employee. *

DAD (CONT'D)
Sam! *

VERA
Sam! DAD

Dad and Vera search the crowd. *

WINDOWS *

A CURIOUS PATRON stares out through the hotel window. Nothing out there but mist and the hum of a portable generator. *

The Curious Patron draws closer to the window twisting his head, straining to see something, closer... closer.. *

BAM! A PERSON from outside slams headlong into the glass and bounces off. *

INSIDE *

CURIOUS PATRON
What the...! *

Patrons scream and scramble back in shock. *

Another body slams into the glass and another. *

Hotel Patrons fall back in horror forcing Dad back with them. *

Patrons trip over bags and other people in panic. Now a full scale retreat of Hotel Patrons begins as a flood of bodies smack into the glass. The cracks in the window grow. *

Dad pauses in horror with the vision of the bodies being flung against the glass then continues to fight his way through the crowd to find Sam. *

DAD
Sam! Samantha! *

He reaches the door only to hear..

*

VERA (O.C.)
(Screaming)
Daddy!

*

*

Dad turns to see Vera being swallowed by the panicked crowd.

*

VERA (CONT'D)
Daddy!

*

*

DAD
Vera!

*

*

Dad starts towards her but makes little headway.

*

DAD (CONT'D)
Get off her! VERA! Get out of my
way!

*

*

*

VERA
Daddy!

*

*

The foyer door behind Dad opens automatically. He stops and turns expectantly, still with the credit card in his hand.

*

*

DAD
Sam.

*

The words have barely left his mouth when he is confronted by an indescribable horror, the sound of a stampede accompanied by the likes of demonic shrills. He is frozen to the spot as an apocalypse approaches.

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CUT TO BLACK

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