

Anna's Man

By

Andrey Kravchenko

based on a true story (not really)

1

EXT. STREET - PARKING LOT OUTSIDE A GROCERY SHOP - DAY

ANNA, early 30s, exits the grocery shop and walks to her car. A front seat passenger - UNSEEN - watches her through the front window. Anna skirts around the car, holding numerous grocery bags, and lingers by the window.

ANNA
(to the passenger)
I'm so sorry. It took more time
than I thought.

TWO TEENS, 12 and 11, walk by, chatting. They stop in front of the car, noticing something odd about the passenger.

OFF SCREEN: Anna opens the boot and quickly arranges the bags.

The teens LOOK at the passenger through the front window. They are CONFUSED.

TEEN 1
Miss?

ANNA
Yes?

Anna shuts the boot, walks to the driver's seat.

TEEN 1
What's this?

ANNA
What do you mean? My boyfriend.

Anna sits down at the driver's seat. Teens stop being confused and BURST into laughter.

ANNA (cont'd)
(to the passenger)
What's wrong with kids these days?

A shot of the passenger: it is an anthropomorphic newspaper papier-mâché, diligently combined together piece by piece to constitute a human-sized mannequin.

ANNA (cont'd)
Yeah, I don't know either.
(to the teens)
Careful!

Anna starts the car. Teens get out of the way, chuckling. Anna drives the car away.

2

INT. ANNA'S APPARTMENT - DAY

The door to Anna's flat is closed.

OFF SCREEN: Anna approaches it from outside.

The door opens, and Anna carries the mannequin through the doorway. She positions him on a sofa by the window.

ANNA

(Switches on the TV)

I'll be back in a moment. The
parents are supposed to come in two
hours, so you can watch your
football.

Anna LEAVES, but can be seen through the window.
She collects the groceries from the car.

OFF SCREEN: Football match commences on the TV.

Outside the window Anna finishes collecting the groceries
and heads back.

OFF SCREEN: The football match continues.

Anna returns and places the groceries on the dinner table.
It is littered with leftovers of carton, fabric, glue, and
thread cuts, like if someone has been making an appliqué.
Anna looks around, arms akimbo. The mannequin continues
watching the TV.

ANNA (cont'd)

Honey, did you say something? Oh,
no, I will be fine, it's better if
I do it myself, thank you.

The mannequin keeps quiet.

ANNA (cont'd)

Enjoy the game!

A series of CUTS: Anna SWITCHES ON the radio, COLLECTS all
the rubbish in rubbish bags, BOILS water for tagliatelle,
FRIES the mince, PREPARES the sauce. The mannequin
watches football. In between the action cuts Anna OPENS a
bottle of wine, DANCES to the music, APPROACHES and HUGS the
mannequin from behind. Then she disappears into the bedroom.

GOAL! - some player on the TV SCORES. Anna walks out in a
stunning dress.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA (cont'd)
What do you think? -

Anna acts a bit FLIRTY after her wine.

ANNA (cont'd)
(into the mannequins ear)
I think we still have some time.

She gets on top of the mannequin and starts kissing him.

3 EXT. STREET - OUTSIDE ANNA'S APARTMENT - EVENING

JACOB and AGNES, mid 60s, Anna's parents approach and park their car outside Anna's house. Agnes exits the car, holding a little pet bag with presumably a pet animal in it.

JACOB
(checks out his wrist watch)
We are a bit early.

AGNES
Maybe we should give her a call? -

Jacob HONKS.

AGNES (cont'd)
- What are you doing? You are going to wake everyone around!

JACOB
That's faster. Watch it, she's gonna look out.

4 INT. ANNA'S APPARTMENT - EVENING

Anna, on top of the mannequin, STOPS kissing his necks when she HEARS a honk outside.

ANNA
(glimpses outside the window)
It's the parents!

Anna's parents notice her and start waving. Anna quickly positions the mannequin on the chair, lights up candles in the middle of the table, and bustles to the bathroom. The mannequin looks very unsteady on his chair.

5 EXT. STREET - OUTSIDE ANNA'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Anna's parents approach the door and ring the doorbell.

AGNES

Can't wait to finally meet her
boyfriend.

(to the pet bag)

Oh, it seems like she is anxious
too. Don't worry, they are going to
love you, sweetie!

JACOB

What's taking her so long?

Jacob RINGS again.

6 INT. ANNA'S APPARTMENT - EVENING

Anna quickly FIXES her hair.

OFF SCREEN: Doorbell RINGS.

ANNA

I'm coming!

She walks out from the bathroom and notices a kiss print on
the mannequin cheek.

ANNA

(wipes the print with a
napkin)

- We should be careful.

She goes to open the front door, not noticing how
the mannequin COLLAPSES on the table and HITS the
candelabra. The papier-mache mannequin's head ignites
instantly.

Anna opens the front door.

ANNA (cont'd)

Hi! Good to see you!

JACOB

(kisses his daughter)

Finally someone let us in!

AGNES

Hello, darling!

The family embraces. Anna notices the pet bag.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA
Is this a doggy?

AGNES
We got it last week. Was anxious to
meet your boyfriend too.

ANNA
How nice! He's inside, come in!

The parents come in and NOTICE the mannequin on fire. The mother, SHOCKED, drops the pet bag on the floor and points her finger at the BURNING mannequin.

ANNA (cont'd)
What, what's wrong?

Anna REALISES and gets HORRIFIED. The mannequin DROPS DEAD on the floor. Anna jumps around the burning body, failing to react.

AGNES
Oh my goodness!

The dad pulls out his jacket and HITS the mannequin until he EXTINGUISHES the fire. Everybody observes the burned mannequin.

ANNA
(sobbing)
He burned! God! Who am I gonna show
to you?

JACOB
Was this...?

ANNA
(continues sobbing)
Yes... And he was so nice...

The mother picks up the pet bag and STRUGGLES to unzip it. Meanwhile the father squats down, examining the mannequin.

JACOB
He might be alright?

O.S. Agnes struggles with the zipper.

AGNES(O.S.)
Gosh!

(CONTINUED)

ANNA

I'm not sure about it. Look at him,
he has just burned!

AGNES

Poor baby, don't worry. I will
patch him up. Come here, young man!

Agnes PASSES the pet bag to Jacob.

AGNES (cont'd)

Can you do it, please? I think it's
stuck.

Jacob tries to unzip the pet bag. Agnes PLACES the mannequin
back at his chair and takes out a few plasters from her
purse. She applies them to the mannequins burnt head.

AGNES (cont'd)

He looks tough, he will be alright.

Anna examines her patched burned boyfriend.

ANNA

He should be... Thank you, mom!

AGNES

Oh, stop this nonsense. So are you
going to introduce us?

ANNA

His name is Martin.

AGNES

Nice meeting you, Martin, I'm
Agnes, and this is Jacob.

JACOB

(final struggle with the
zipper)
Just a moment.

ANNA

See? I told you everything will be
alright.

(to the parents)

He was so worried.

JACOB

(wins over the zipper)
Martin, do you like dogs?

(CONTINUED)

Jacob TAKES OUT a papier-mache DOG, practically identical in terms of quality to the boyfriend-mannequin and puts it next to the mannequin-boyfriend. Inspiration: 'Crap taxidermy book.' Anna is SURPRISED but not for long. She REACHES OUT to cuddle the mannequin dog.

AGNES

Isn't she lovely?

ANNA

She is!

The family sits downs at the table.

JACOB

Nice to finally meet you, Martin.
(shakes the mannequin's hand)
Hope you are catholic?..

ANNA

He is.

AGNES

He is ideal for you, darling!

The family holds hands and prays a moments in silence.

EVERYONE

Amen.

Anna holds the mannequin's hand a little longer, gives him a flirty wink. The family starts eating. They look happy. It ends with a shot of the mannequin-dog lying under the chair of the mannequin-boyfriend.

FADE OUT: