

Fools Advance

By

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V. 03

INT. MAD HAT TEA - AFTERNOON - DAY 1

A man, PAUL, sits at a table by the window. He sips his tea. Outside, an attractive woman, COURTNEY, walks by. Paul looks up and sees her; she doesn't appear to notice him. She walks out of frame. Paul looks at his cell phone for the time.

DISSOLVE

INT. MAD HAT TEA - AFTERNOON - DAY 2

Just as Paul sits at the same table by the window, cup of tea in hand, Courtney walks by. Paul watches her go by with interest.

DISSOLVE

INT. MAD HATE TEA - AFTERNOON - DAY 3-DAY ?

MONTAGE:

Paul sitting at the same table on a different day, wearing different outfit. Next, he sits alone at the table sipping tea. Then, he's sitting with someone else, same table, playing chess. Then he's sitting reading a book in front of the window. He's dressed slightly neater every time we see him. And every time Courtney comes by - also wearing a different outfit to indicate it's a different day - Paul drops what he's doing and watches her go by. Sometimes he looks at the clock on his cellphone when she passes by. We also see Paul in different parts of the tea shop during the montage, interacting with the owner and other customers, at times before and after Courtney goes by.

DISSOLVE

INT. MAD HAT TEA - DAYS LATER

The same table by the window is empty.

CUT TO

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE OF MAD HAT - AFTERNOON

The light rail approaches and pulls to a stop. When the doors open, Paul jumps off, and makes a beeline for the tea shop.

INT. MAD HAT FRONT DOOR - AFTERNOON

The door burst open and Paul stumbles in.

PAUL

One-

CUT TO

CU OF TEA CUP SITTING ON COUNTER

PAUL

(seeing tea)

Thanks.

Paul retrieves the tea and heads to the table by the window, looking at the cell phone clock. He sits and gets comfortable, sipping the tea. After a few moments, Courtney walks by the window quickly. In the extreme foreground a figure has walked up next to the table. Sensing their presence, Paul turns to look. Standing there is TOBIN, the tea shop's owner.

TOBIN

I don't understand, Paul. You were outside just a couple of minutes ago. Why didn't you wait till she came by and then talk to her? You'll never get to know her at this rate.

PAUL

(getting more agitated as he goes on)

I-I don't know. I guess that right now she's the perfect woman. I don't know anything about her, not even her name. What if she doesn't like sushi - or, worse still, can't eat dairy products and has to order pizza without cheese topping? Does she have pets that I'll be allergic to, with hard decisions having to be made? Will her "night emissions" repulse me? At this moment, I don't know her messy personal history, any financial problems she may have, or if she has an ongoing medical condition that'll turn crucial at the worst possible time. Maybe her parents are racists, and they'll never accept me or our *children*?! Maybe - after many years

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PAUL (cont'd)
together - she'll leave me and
break my heart. How can I take that
chance?!

TOBIN
How can you *not* take that chance?

TITLE: TWO WEEKS AGO

EXT. BUILDING - AFTERNOON - DAY 1

Courtney and ANGIE, another woman around the same age, emerge from a building. Courtney is wearing the same outfit as she was when Paul first saw her. Ad lib tail end of conversation.

COURTNEY
I'll see you tomorrow.

They begin to part, Angie walking to her nearby car. She starts to unlock the door.

ANGIE
See you... Where are you parked?

COURTNEY
Just down on the next street. There
wasn't anything closer.

ANGIE
Need a ride to your car?

COURTNEY
No, I can manage. Thanks.

Angie gets in, starts her car and drives off. Courtney walks down some outside steps and turns the corner. Within a couple of steps, she's in front of Mad Hat. She walks past the window, and catches a glimpse of Paul, who's wearing the same clothes he wore at the beginning. After passing the window, she puts her back against the wall, and tries to spy surreptitiously around into the shop window to look at Paul. It's obvious that he's caught her interest. After a few moments she looks at the time on her cell phone, and hurries off in the direction of her car.

DISSOLVE

EXT. BUILDING - AFTERNOON - DAY 2

Courtney and Angie emerge from same building, walking out chatting. Courtney is wearing her second outfit. Angie goes to her car, parked nearby.

ANGIE

Where'd you park?

COURTNEY

Down on the other street again. No spots available.

ANGIE

Need a ride?

Angie unlocks her car door and gets in.

COURTNEY

Nah, I'll be fine.

Angie starts the engine and drives off. Courtney walks down the same outside steps and turns the same corner. She pauses slightly, trying to see into the window before she passes it. Seeing Paul start to sit down, she continues walking. Once again, she stops once she's out of his view, almost as if trying to catch her breath. Then she continues on her way.

DISSOLVE

EXT. BUILDING - AFTERNOON - DAY 3-DAY?

There's a montage of Courtney walking past the window in different clothes to indicate that it's over a period of time.

DISSOLVE

EXT. BUILDING - AFTERNOON - DAYS LATER

Courtney and Angie emerge from same building, walking out chatting. Courtney is wearing another outfit. Angie goes to her car, parked nearby. There are empty spots around her car.

ANGIE

See you tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

COURTNEY

What, you're not going to try to offer me a ride?

ANGIE

I don't see your car, so I assume you parked elsewhere again.

COURTNEY

Actually, I took the light rail.

ANGIE

I have a feeling that you wouldn't except a ride even if you'd hitchhiked here. What's going on?

COURTNEY

Okay... A couple of weeks ago I was walking to my car past that tea shop, and I saw this guy sitting inside... ohmygod. He made my heart stop.

ANGIE

And you went in and talked to him, and you've been seeing him everyday since?

COURTNEY

Not quite. I haven't actually got the nerve to go talk to him.

ANGIE

Why not?

COURTNEY

(getting more agitated as she goes on)

I-I don't know. I guess that right now he's the perfect man, aloof and mysterious. I don't know anything about him, not even a name. What if he doesn't like spring rolls, or puts something gross on his pizza, like pineapple? What if my pets are allergic to him? Will his morning breath repulse me? I don't even know if he's gainfully employed, considering how much time he spends in that tea shop. At this moment, I don't know if he's straight, gay, married, has children, or even wants children. Maybe - after many

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

COURTNEY (cont'd)
years together - he'll leave me and
and break my heart? How can I take
that chance?!

SPLITSCREEN OF TOBIN AT MADHAT, AND ANGIE NEXT TO HER CAR

TOBIN AND ANGIE
How can you not take that chance?

SPLITSCREEN OF PAUL AND COURTNEY

PAUL AND COURTNEY
You're right.

SPLITSCREEN OF TOBIN AT MADHAT, AND ANGIE NEXT TO HER CAR

TOBIN AND ANGIE
Go get him/her.

SPLITSCREEN ENDS

EXT. OUTSIDE STEPS - DAY

Courtney practically hops down them two at a time. She walks by the window quickly without looking in. She goes to the door and stands there for a moment, willing herself to go in. She's frozen.

COURTNEY
Maybe tomorrow.

After a moment, she continues the direction she was headed. She gets a couple of feet forward when she hears the door to the Mad Hat open. Quickly, she ducks into a doorway. Paul runs by her, toward the light rail, and yells in its direction. The light rail shuts the doors to its cars.

PAUL
Wait!

The light rail travels past him. He turns and watches it go. Dejectedly, he turns around to go back to the Mad Hat. That's when he sees Courtney in the doorway.

PAUL
Hi.

COURTNEY
Hi.

THE END