**By 심규열**

* 브런치: 심규열; <https://brunch.co.kr/brunchbook/fluentspeakin>
* 유튜브: 국내파 영어회화; <https://youtu.be/_krdAAP-mjw>
* 영어: 3시간 원데이 클래스: <https://taling.me/Talent/Detail/1195>
* 인스타: shimgy3000
* [Shimgy3000@naver.com](mailto:Shimgy3000@naver.com)

500 DAYS OF SUMMER

Author’s Note: The following is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. Especially you Jenny Beckman. Bitch.

This is a story of boy meets girl.

(1)

The boy, Tom Hansen of Margate, New Jersey, grew up believing that he'd never truly be happy until the day he met "the one."

This belief stemmed from early exposure to sad British pop music and a total misreading of the movie The Graduate. Elaine! Elaine!

The girl, Summer Finn of Shinnecock 'Michigan' did not share this belief. Since the disintegration of her parents 'marriage', she'd only loved two things. The first was her long dark hair. The second was how easily she could cut it off and feel nothing.

Tom meets Summer on January 8. He knows almost immediately she's who he's been searching for.

This is a story of boy meets girl. But you should know up front, this is not a love story.

♪ They made a statue of us ♪

♪ And put it on a mountaintop ♪

♪ Now tourists come and stare at us ♪

♪ Blow bubbles with their gum ♪

♪ Take photographs of fun ♪

♪ Have fun ♪

♪ They'll name a city after us ♪

♪ And later say it's all our fault ♪

♪ Then they'll give us a talking to ♪

♪'Cause they've got years of experience ♪

♪ Living in a den of thieves ♪

♪ Rummaging for answers in the pages ♪

♪ Living in a den of thieves ♪

♪ And it's contagious ♪

♪ And it's contagious ♪

(290)

We didn't know who else to call. It's Amanda Heller all over again. You did the right thing. Now, where is he?

Thomas. Rachel. What are you doing here? I’m here to help you. Help me how? First, put down the plate.

Drink this. What is that? Vodka. Um, does Mom know that you're here? ‘Cause it’s probably past 10:00. Don’t worry about it. Just start from the beginning and tell us what happened.

Things were going so well. Then what?

I think we should stop seeing each other.

Just like that? Just like that. Did she say why?

I mean, this thing… What are we doing? I mean, is this normal? Norm- I-I don't know. I don't care. I'm happy. Aren't you happy? You’re happy? You’re not? All we do is argue. That is bullshit.

Maybe she was just in a bad mood. Yeah, maybe like a- a hormonal thing. P.M.S.? What do you know about P.M.S.? More than you, Tom. Then what happened?

This can't come as a total surprise to you. I mean, we've been like Sid and Nancy for months now. Summer, Sid stabbed Nancy...seven times with a kitchen knife.I-I mean, we have some disagreements, but I hardly think I'm Sid Vicious. No. I'm Sid. Oh, so I'm Nancy? Let's just eat and we'll talk about it later. Mmm. That is good. I'm really glad we did this. I love these pancakes. What? Tom, don't go. You're still my best friend!

Jesus. You’ve broken up with girls before. Yes. And girls have broken up with you before. This is different. Why? 'Cause it's Summer. So you'll-you'll meet somebody new. Point is, you're the best guy I know. You'll get over her. I think it's kind of like how they say. There's, uh-There's plenty of other fish in the sea. No. They- They say that. Well, they're lying. I don't want to get over her. I want to get her back.

(1)

Maybe playing it safe is the wrong approach. The nuclear family is dead and we need a new holiday that recognizes that. May 21st. Other Mother's Day. Thank you. I'd say we've got some potential here. What do you think, Hansen? Could you write up some prototypes for these? Uh, Mr. Vance, there's a telephone call for you on line three. Oh. Thank you. Uh, everyone, this is Summer, my new assistant. Summer just moved here from-. Michigan. Right. Michigan. Right. Uh, Summer, everyone. Everyone, Summer. Excuse me. I have to take this. It's nice to meet you all.

There's only two kinds of people in the world. There's women, and there's men.

Summer Finn was a woman. Height, average. Weight, average. Shoe size, slightly above average. For all intents and purposes, Summer Finn, just another girl. Except she wasn't.

To wit, in 1998, Summer quoted a song by the Scottish band Belle and Sebastian in her high school yearbook. "Color my life with the chaos of trouble." This spike in Michigan sales of their album, The Boy with the Arab Strap continues to puzzle industry analysts.

Summer's employment at the Daily Freeze during her sophomore year coincided with an inexplicable 212% increase in revenue.

Every apartment Summer rented was offered at an average rate of 9.2% below market value. And her round-trip commute to work, averaged 18.4 double takes per day. It was a rare quality, this "Summer effect." Rare and yet something every post adolescent male has encountered at least once in their lives. For Tom Hansen to find it now in a city of 400,000 offices, 91,000 commercial buildings and 3.8 million people- well, that could only be explained by one thing : Fate.

(3)

Dude, I hear she's a bitch. Really? Yeah. Patel tried to talk to her in the copy room. She's totally not having it. Maybe she was just in a hurry. And maybe she's an uppity, “better than everyone” superskank. Damn. I know. She's pretty hot. That sucks. Why is it pretty girls think they can treat people like crap and get away with it? Centuries of reinforcement. You know what? Screw her. I don't care. If she wants to be that way, fine.

(4)

Smiths? Hi. I love the Smiths. Sorry? I said I love the Smiths. You have-You have good taste in music. ♪To die by your side is such a heavenly way to die ♪ I love 'em. Holy shit.

(8)

There you go. Have another piece. Ah. Drinks? Arthur, did you get a piece? Thanks. Want one? Yeah.

Summer, right? Oh. Yeah. Smiths fan. Yeah. Tom. Want some, uh, uh-It's not champagne. I don't know what it is. Sure. So, how's it goin'? Pretty good. You just moved here, right? Uh-huh. When? Saturday. Oh, wow. And, uh, what brought you? Boredom mostly. Wanted to try something new and exciting. Mmm. Well, clearly you've come to the right place.

So, have you worked here long? About three or four years. Wow. You've...always wanted to write greeting cards? No, I don't even want to do it now. Well, you should do something else then. Yeah. I studied to be an architect, actually. You did? That's cool. What happened there? It didn't work out. I needed a job, and here we are. You any good? Well, um, I wrote this one."Today you're a man. Mazel tov on your bar mitzvah." It’s a big seller. I meant as an architect. Yeah. I doubt it. Well, you're a perfectly adequate greeting card writer. Thank you. That was actually my nickname in college. They called me “Perfectly Adequate Hansen”. They used to call me Anal Girl. I was very neat and organized. Well, I should get back, so-. Uh-. All right. See you later.

(154)

I don't know, man. I think it's official. I'm in love with Summer. I love her smile. I love her hair. I love her knees. I love this heart-shaped birthmark she has on her neck. I love the way she sometimes licks her lips before she talks. I love the sound of her laugh. I love the way she looks when she's sleeping.

I love how I hear this song every-every time I think of her. I love how she makes me feel like, like anything's possible, or like- I don't know. Like-Like life is worth it.

This is not good.

(11)

She likes Magritte and Hopper. And we talked about Banana fish for like 20 minutes. We're so compatible, it's insane. She's- well, she's not like I thought at all. She's amazing. Oh boy. What? Just 'cause some cute girl likes the same bizarro crap you do, that doesn't make her your soul mate, Tom. Red team wins! What do you mean?

(22)

It’s off. What? Me and Summer. Was it ever on? No, but it could have been in a world where good things happen to me. Yeah, well, that's not really where we live. No. Lucky. So, what happened? All right. You ready? So there we are. Nine more floors to ride, just me and her.

Hey, Summer. Hi. How was your weekend? It was good.

Can you believe that shit? I'm sorry. What shit? I think I missed something. She said, "It was good." Emphasis on the "good." She basically said she spent the weekend having sex with some guy she met at the gym. Skank. Whatever. I'm over it. What the hell is wrong with you? She's not interested in me. There's really nothing I can do about that. Just because she said it was good? And some other things. Like, did she say, uh, hey instead of "hi"? I mean, 'cause you know that that-that means that she's a lesbian, right? I gave her plenty of chances.

I'm going to the supply room. Do you guys need anything? I think you know what I need. Uh, toner. Okay. Sure. No problem.

Whatever, man. It's fine. I don't need this crap really. I just, you know-I'm comfortable. I'm unhassled. People don't realize this, but loneliness- It’s underrated. You could just ask her out. Don't be stupid.

(27)

Hey. This Friday, all you can karaoke at the Mill. No. Come on. They're not gonna let you back in there after last time. Ah, I wasn't that bad. Dude, you threw up on the stage, you tried to fight the bartender and you threatened to burn the place down. But I didn't burn the place down. We're not going back there, man. Look. It's not like that, okay? It's a work thing. The whole office is going. I can’t go, even if I wanted-. You’re not listening to me. What? The whole office is going.

(28)

Hi. Hi. They said you weren’t coming. You asked if I was-. Goddamn. That song is brilliant! What's up, Hansen? Summer! Summer! That’s me. Come on up. You-. Okay. I’m new, so no making fun of me. Thanks, chief. Ah, thanks. Yeah, man. Cheers.

♪ I got some troubles but they won't last. I’m gonna lay right down here in the grass. And pretty soon all my troubles will pass. ‘Cause I’m in Su-Su-Su-. Su-Su-Su-Su-Su-Su- Sugar town. ♪

Like, that’s what I was-. I guess. Hello. Hi. I didn’t, uh- I didn’t know you were gonna join us. I would have gotten you, you know, a drink, or-. I’m good. You’re good? You- You were great-great up, uh, singing. Thank you. I wanted to sing "Born to run,"but they didn't have it. I love “Born to run.” Me too. Tom’s from New Jersey. Really? Yeah. I grew up there. Uh, I lived there till I was 12. I named my cat after Springsteen. No kidding. What-what was his name? Bruce. That makes sense. So, do you have a boyfriend? No. Why not? ‘Cause I don’t want one. Come on. I don’t believe that. You don't believe that a woman could enjoy being free and independent? Are you a lesbian? No, I'm not a lesbian. I just don't feel comfortable being anyone's girlfriend. I don't actually feel comfortable being anyone's anything, you know. I don't know what you're talking about. Really? Nope. Okay. Let me break it down for you. Break it down. Okay. I like being on my own. Relationships are messy, and people's feelings get hurt. Who needs it? We're young. We live in one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Might as well have fun while we can and save the serious stuff for later. Holy shit. You're a dude. She's a dude. Okay. But wait, wait. What happens if you fall in love? What? Well, you don't believe that, do you? It's love. It's not Santa Claus. Well, what does that word even mean? I've been in relationships, and I don't think I've ever seen it. Well, maybe that's-. And most marriages end in divorce these days. Like my parents. Okay. Mine too, but-. Me thinks the lady doth protest too much. The lady dothn't. There's no such thing as love. It's a fantasy. Well, I think you're wrong. Okay. Well, what is it that I'm missing then? I think you know it when you feel it. I guess we can just agree to disagree. Yeah. Okay. Who's singing next? I nominate Young Werther here. I’m not nearly drunk enough to-. Bartender.

♪ Outside there’s a boxcar waiting. Outside the family stew. Out by the fire breathing. Outside we wait till our face turns blue. I know the nervous walking. I know the dirty beard ha-ha-hangs. Out by the boxcar waiting. Take me away to nowhere plains. There is a wait so long. There is a wait so long. Here comes your man. ♪

You're good!

Is it-? Da-da-da-. No? No-. What it that then? I don’t know. That- That's something, but that's not it. I know. Ah, I used to watch it every week. Oh. Yeah! It was the best show on TV. Knight Rider? Come on. And the theme song is really good. So good. This is gonna bother me for a week. Me too.

You're amazing. I know, buddy. You’re amazing. You guys are so much fun. Yeah. You guys are so much-. Wait! Wait! What’s up? Not you. You. He likes you. Okay. He likes you, likes you! Good night, McKenzie. Why don't you just tell her, Tom? Yeah. You guys are the best! Sorry you had to see that. He’s… happens every time we come here. He, uh- I don't know. Something about that guy and singing. Is that true? Yeah, yeah. He drinks, and he sings and just loses his shit. No, uh, not McKenzie. Um, the other thing. What thing? Do you... Iike me? Yeah. Yeah, of course I like you. As friends? Right. As friends. Just as friends? Yeah. I mean, I-I don't know. I hadn't really thought about, um-Yes. Why? No reason. I just-I think you're interesting, and I'd like for us to be friends. Is that all right? Yeah. It's, um-Yeah. You and me, we should be friends. Mmm. Okay. Good. Well, I'm that way. Okay. Well, good night. Good night.

(31)

Hey. Hi. So, that was fun the other night.

You son of a bitch! Shh! The same girl you've been obsessing over for weeks now? I've not been obsessing. You get the girl you said was way out of your league, that you'd never have a chance with.. in a million years. That girl. Paul, Seriously. Did you bang her? No. What, No. Hand job? Man, no. No jobs. I'm still unemployed. We- We kissed. Level with me, man. Come on. This is your best friend, huh? Your best friend who tolerated you whining about this girl for weeks on end. You were essentially stalking her! Paul! Shh!

Hi. Hey. I’m Summer. Summer. I’m Paul. Hi, Paul. Nice to meet you. Well, I gotta go. I gotta do some, you know. Yeah, man. Um, pretend I was never here. Oh, wait! Tom, Tom, Tom, Tom. Um, if any jobs come up-Thanks, Paul! See ya! He's, uh, you know, an old friend. If you heard any of, um-. Heard what? Nothing. You wanna go? Yeah. I'm stalking. I mean, I'm starving.

(282)

Ah, hon? Our sink is broken. Man, all of our sinks are broken.

(34)

What are we looking for again? Uh, trivets. How ‘bout a fly gel? No, I don't think so. No? You don't want a fly gel?

Home sweet home. Our place really is lovely, isn't it? Yes. Ooh! Idol is on. The TV's not working. Oh. Well, I'm famished. Let's eat.

Mmm. Smells delicious. Oh, honey, that's because it is delicious. I made it myself. Bald eagle. Your favorite. The sink's broken. Well, that's okay, because...that's why we bought a home with two kitchens. You're so smart. I'll race you to the bedroom.

♪There goes the fear♪

Darling, I don't know how to tell you this, but... there's a Chinese family in our bathroom. This is fun. You're fun. Thanks. Hey, um, I just wanna tell you that, um, I'm not really looking for anything serious. Is that okay? Yeah. 'Cause some people kind of freak out when they hear that. No, not me. You sure? Yeah. Like, casual, right? Take it slow. Right. No pressure.

Can you, uh-Can you wait one second? Okay.

Settle. She's just a girl. Just a girl. She wants to keep it casual, which is why she's in my bed right now. But that's casual. That's what casual people do. That's fine. That's great.

Hi. Hi.

♪What I want you’ve got and it might be hard to handle. Like the flame that burns the candle. The candle feeds the flame. Yeah, Yeah, What I’ve got full stock of thoughts and dreams that scatter. You’re pullin’ them all together. And I can’t explain oh yeah. Well, well, you- You make my dreams come true. Well, well, you-. Oh yeah. You make my dreams come true. On a night when bad dreams become a screamer. When they’re messin’ with the dreamer. I can laugh it in the face. Twist and shout my way out. And wrap yourself around me. ‘Cause I ain’t the way you found me. And I’ll never be the same. Oh yeah. Well, well, you-. You make my dreams come true. Well, well, you-. You make my dreams come true. Now listen to this. I’m down on my daydream. Oh, that sleepwalk should be over by now. Oh, no. Yeah you-.♪

(303)

You know, I'm gonna- I'm gonna- I'm gonna get Alfredo's number. And I’ll bring it to you. Okay? Okay. Is this Solitaire?

So, did you get her back yet or what? Working on it. Hey, maybe you should write a book. What? Well, you know, Henry Miller said the best way to get over a woman is to turn her into literature. Well, that guy had a lot more sex than me. Oh, this is it! This is it!

*So great to hear from you. I can't this week, but maybe next? I hope this means you're ready to be friends.*

(45)

Yeah, that's it. That is it. Your girl is losing it.

(87)

Can you just be serious, for just a second? I’m being totally serious. No, you’re joking around. No. I’m not joking around. “Octopus’s Garden?” Yes, "Octopus's Garden"is the best Beatles song ever recorded. Why don't you just say "Piggies"? Come on. I love Ringo Starr! Nobody loves Ringo Starr. That’s what I love about him. No, no. Ooh, this looks good. Gets really good reviews.

You know what? That looks pretty doable. Why are you asking me now? Because this was your idea. Put your hand there. Wait one second. Okay. Three, two, one! One.

(95)

Yeah, the street level isn't so exciting, but-Like, if you look up-. The Fine Arts Building. The guys who designed this, Walker and Eisen, are...two of my favorites. Isn't that cool?

This is my favorite spot. This is- This is your favorite spot? Right here. How come? Uh, I don't know. It's kind of hard to explain, I guess. Well, try. Um- Well, okay. Like, that building- that's, uh-That's been there since 1911. And that- that's the Continental. That's L.A.'s first skyscraper. It was built in 1904. What is that? That? Yeah. That's-That's also a parking lot. Oh! Yeah. That's, That’s also a parking lot. That’s um- Yeah. There's a lot of beautiful stuff here too though. I don't know. I just... wish people would notice it more. If it were me, then, uh-. If it were you what? I don't know. I think I'd... make 'em notice. How would you make them notice? I don't know. There's a lot of different stuff you could do. Show me. Please. I don't know anything about architecture. You want me to draw you something? I don’t have any paper. Well, use my arm. Please, I need a tattoo. Well, let’s see your arm. That’s the spirit. Well, the buildings need to be integrated better, so-You could maximize light capacity here.

(109)

It's kind of messy. That's okay.

For Tom Hansen, this was the night where everything changed. That wall Summer so often hid behind-the wall of distance, of space, of casual-that wall was slowly coming down. For here was Tom, in her world, a place few had been invited to see with their own eyes. And here was Summer, wanting him there. Him, no one else.

Have you ever been in a tornado? No. It's that and my teeth falling out. I have that too! You do? Yeah! It's so weird. It's like being an old man. What else do you have? Um, earthquakes? Really? No. You know, I dream sometimes about flying. It starts out like I'm running really, really fast. I'm, like, superhuman. And the terrain starts to get really rocky and steep. And then I'm running so fast that my feet aren't even touching the ground. And I'm floating, and it's like this amazing, amazing realness. I'm free. I'm safe. Then I realize, I'm completely alone. And then I wake up.

As he listened, Tom began to realize that these weren't stories routinely told. These were stories one had to earn. He could feel the wall coming down. He wondered if anyone else had made it this far, which is why the next six words changed everything.

I've never told anybody that before. I guess I'm not just anybody.

So what are you exactly? I don’t know. Are you her boyfriend? It’s not that simple. Sure, it is. What, like, are we going steady? Come on, guys. You know, we're- we're adults. We know how we feel. We don't need to put labels on it. I mean, "boyfriend," "girlfriend." All that stuff is-it's really juvenile. You sound gay. You really do. Okay, first of all, your last girlfriend was Amy Sussman in the seventh grade, and you dated for, like, three hours. And you, you've been with Robyn since what, like 1998? ’97. ’97. See. Shoot. I don't think the two of you are exactly authorities on modern relationships.

(118)

So, what should I do? You should ask her. What? Well, why rock the boat, is what I'm thinking. I mean, things are going well. You start putting labels on it, that's like the kiss of death. It’s like saying, “I love you.” Yeah, I know what you mean. That's what happened between me and Sean. Who the hell is Sean? My boyfriend before Mark. Who the-? Never mind. So, what you're saying-. I'm saying you do want to ask her. It's obvious. You're just afraid you'll get an answer you don't want, which will shatter all the illusions of how great these past few months have been. Now look, if it were me, I'd find out now before you show up at her place...and, well, she's in bed with Lars from Norway. Who's Lars from Norway? Just some guy she met at the gym...with Brad Pitt's face and Jesus' abs. Wait! No, Coach. We're not done here. Rachel! Look, it’s easy, Tom. Just don't be a pussy.

You okay? Yeah. You sure? Summer, I gotta ask you something. What? What are we, um-. What are we doing? I thought we were going to the movies. Yeah. Nah. I mean, like, what are we, like-What's going on here, with us? I don't know. Who cares? I'm happy. Aren’t you happy? Yeah. Good.

(259)

London, 1964. Those girls knew how to dress. Nowadays, it's all these giant sunglasses...and tattoos. It's handbags with little dogs in them. Who okayed this? Some people like it. I like how you dress. I was thinking about getting a butterfly tattoo about yea big on my ankle. No. Oh.

Yo. How's it going? Uh, okay. You live around here? Um, yeah, not too far. I've never seen you here before. You're not too observant. That's funny. You're funny. So let me buy you a drink. No, thank you. You with this guy? Hey, I’m Tom. Whatever. So, come on. One drink. What are you drinking? I said no, thanks. You're serious? This guy? Hey, buddy… You know what? Don’t be rude. I'm flattered, but I'm not interested. So why don't you go over there and leave us alone? Thanks. It's a free country. I can't believe this is your boyfriend. What are you doing?

It was really just a crazy thing. It happened like-It felt like it happened fast, but really, it-it also felt like it was happening really slowly, like everything all was just-I don't know. It doesn't feel like you think it would-. Hey, what's the matter? I just- I can't believe you. You can't believe me? You were so completely, completely uncool in there. Wait. Are you mad at me? I just got my ass kicked for you. Oh, really? Was that for me? Was that for my benefit? Yes, it was. Okay, well, next time don't, 'cause I don't need your help. You know what? I'm really tired. Can we talk about this tomorrow?

No. You know what? I'm not going anywhere till you tell me what's going on. Nothing's going on. We're just-. What? We're just what? We’re just friends. No! Don’t pull that with me! Don't even try to-. This is not how you treat your friend. Kissing in the copy room? Holding hands in IKEA? Shower sex? Come on! Friends, my balls! I like you, Tom. I just don't want a relationship. Well, you're not the only one that gets a say in this! I do too! And I say we're a couple, goddamn it!

After you, please.

I shouldn't have done that. Done what? Gotten mad at you. I'm sorry. Look, we don't have to put a label on it. That's fine. I get it. But, you know, I just-I need some consistency. I know. I need to know that you're not gonna wake up in the morning...and... feel differently. And I can't give you that. Nobody can. That hurt? I'm sorry. No, it doesn't hurt. I like you. All right.

♪You loved her, you were kissing- ♪ Shh. Well, what about you? Did you ever even have a boyfriend? Well, of course. Yeah? Yeah. Well, tell me about them. No. Oh? Why not? Because it's not important. I'm interested. All right. Fine. You want to go there? Yeah, I can take it. Fine.

So-Well, in high school there was Markus. Quarterback-slash-homecoming king? No. He was a rower. He was very hot. For a brief time in college, there was, um- there was Charlie. She was nice, but-. And then there was my semester in Sienna. Fernando Belardelli. Also known as "The Puma." The Puma? Yeah, The Puma, ‘cause, you know. So- Oh, that’s it? The ones that lasted, yeah. What happened? Why-Why didn't they work out? What always happens. Life.

That's the dumbest thing I've ever heard. No, it's not. It's awesome. Trust me. I'm serious. I'll go first. Penis. Penis. Penis! Penis! Penis! There’s kids around. There are no kids around. Penis! Penis! You having fun? Yeah. This is the kind of thing you did with The Puma, isn't it? Oh, we rarely left the room. Penis! Sorry. Tourette's. You know how it is. Penis! She has it too. Penis! Penis! Shh. Everyone’s looking over here. I’m done. I’m done. Are you done? I’m done. You are done? Yeah. This is too much. Unleash me. I'm done. Promise? I promise. Penis!

(191)

It’s very complex. Mmm. In a way, it sort of, like, says... so much...by...saying so little. Do you want to go to the movies? Yep.

(314)

*He is broken. More than broken, he is alone. Now his only friend is grief. In any case.. suffering. Suffering. So much suffering. The kind of suffering that never ends. A shitload of suffering is what I’m saying. You move. Better luck next time…bitch.*

(321)

T-Tom?Mr. Vance would like to see you in his office.

Tom. Have a seat. Has something happened to you recently? What do you mean? A death in the family, someone taken ill, anything like that. No. Look, I don't mean to pry, but...does this have something to do with Summer leaving? Who? My assistant. Your, um-. Tom, everyone knows. Never mind. The reason I'm asking is, lately your work performance has been... a little off. I’m not following. Okay. Um, here's something that you wrote last week. Uh, "Roses are red, violets are blue. Fuck you, whore." Now, most shoppers at Valentine's Day-. Mr. Vance, are you firing me? No. No. Relax, Hansen. You're one of the good ones. Okay. Uh, yeah, I'm sorry. Things have been a little difficult. That's okay. I completely understand that. I'm just saying that perhaps you could channel those energies, um, into something like this. Funerals and sympathy. Misery, sadness, loss of faith, no reason to live. This is perfect for you. Uh… Good. Okay. Now back to work you go. Thank you.

(167)

Hey. Hey. Don't you have, like,20 cards to write by Friday? Nope. All done. Really? Can you help me? 'Cause I've run out of ways to say "congrats." Okay. I got "Good job, "Well done” and "Way to go." That's it. How 'bout, "Every day you make me proud, but today you get a card." Shit, that’s good! I know. Have you tried "Merry"? Wow! That's perfect! Merry! Wow! We've been stuck on this for an hour. How about...“I love us”?

(322)

I hate Summer. I hate her crooked teeth. I hate her 1960s haircut. I hate her knobby knees. And I hate her cockroach-shaped splotch on her neck. I hate the way she smacks her lips before she talks. And I hate the way she sounds when she laughs.

♪ She's like the wind ♪

I hate this song! Son, you're gonna have to exit the vehicle.

(345)

I normally don't do blind dates, but Paul and Robyn spok every highly of you. Ah. They said you write greeting cards. That's so interesting. I wanted to write. I actually majored in English in college, but what are you gonna do with that degree? I went to Brown. Where did you go? Alison. Listen, it's great to meet you, and... you're a very attractive girl. I just wanted to say up front that this isn't- It’s not gonna go anywhere. Oh.

I liked this girl. I mean, I loved her. What does she do? She took a giant shit on my face. Literally. Literally? Not literally. That's disgusting. Jesus. What's the matter with you? The point is, I'm messed up. I am. You know, on the one hand, I want to forget her. On the other hand, I know that she's the only person in the entire universe that will make me happy. You ever do this?

You think back on the times you had with someone, replay it in your head over and over again, and you look for those first signs of trouble. There's two options really. Either... she's an evil, emotionless, miserable human being, or... she's a robot. Small wonder. You know, Vicki. That would explain a lot actually. Can I ask you a question? Yeah. She never cheated on you? No. Never. She ever take advantage of you in any way? No. And she told you up front that she didn't want a boyfriend. Yeah. I got a great idea.

♪Well, some things you can explain away. But my heartache’s in me every day. Did you stand by me. No, not at all. Di-. ♪

Oh, fine! Go! That's fine. See ya. Waste of time. You don't look anything like Summer.

(402)

Now departing on Track 2, Pacific Surfliner. Full service to Santa Barbara. All aboard, please.

Hey, baby. Hey, you here? Hell no. What do you mean, “Hell no”? I’m not going to that. Yes, you are. No, man. It's gonna be all old people. Yeah, but you said you were going. That's why I'm going. And that's why I called her last night, told her I was sick. Like a ninja. Dude! I'm gonna- I'm not gonna know anybody at this thing. Maybe you'll meet some hot granddaughters or something. I'm hanging up now. Bye, baby.

May I have your attention, please. Passengers boarding the train in Los Angeles, please have your tickets outand ready for collection.

Hi, Tom! Hey, Summer. I must have walked right by you. Yeah. Well, um, what are you doing? Are you going to Millie's? Me too. Cool. I forgot you knew her. Yeah, we worked together all that time, so... Of course. I love Millie. She’s the sweetest. She is. How are you? I’m good. Good. I-I wrote to you.I never heard back, but-Yeah. Yeah. Sorry about that.I-I just, you know-It got kind of crazy, and the holidays came up, so work was-. You still working for Vance? Yeah. Well, I was gonna go get a coffee if you wanna-. “The Architecture of Happiness.” Yeah. That looks like a good book. Yeah. it's-. Well, I don’t wanna to bother you. No, no. I, um-. Yeah, let's get coffee. After you.

♪ Sweet. Disposition. Never too soon. A moment, A love, A dream aloud, A kiss, A cry. Our rights, our wrongs- ♪

You look nice. Thanks. So do you. Well?

Penis. No.

I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss the bride.

♪ Helping the kids out of their coats. Wait, the babies haven't been born. Oh, oh, oh-oh-oh-oh, oh. Unpacking the bags and setting up. And planting lilacs and buttercups. ♪

Okay. What else you got? Well, you snore. No, I don’t. You do. No, I don’t. Yeah. Well, you do too. Oh, I definitely do. And your feet reek. That one time! No, every time. That one time! No. That one time especially, but every time. And when you wake up, your hair, it sticks up like that. It’s ridiculous. You’re ridiculous. Your favorite Beatle is Ringo. Damn right! Ringo’s the best. Ringo is-. Goose! Oh! Oh! Oh! Man! He's fast. Damn! All right. You got me. Duck. Duck.

♪ At last- My love has come along. My lonely days are over. And life is like a song. ♪

One, two, three. Wanna dance? Yeah. Okay. Hey, I was wondering, um-I was gonna maybe have a party on Friday, um, on our rooftop that has, like, a really nice garden, if you want to come. Yeah. If you're not busy. I don't think I will be. They’re good, huh? They are good.

I guess I just got lucky. Um, we met in elementary school. In seventh grade we had the same class schedule, and, uh, we just clicked, you know?

Love? Shit, I don't know. As long as she's cute and she's willing, right? I'm flexible on the cute, so-.

Twenty-one years. She's the light that guides me home. Yes, that is from one of our cards. No. Someone else wrote it. Doesn't make it less true.

I think technically the "girl of my dreams" would probably have, like,a really bodacious rack, you know. Maybe different hair. Probably- You know, she'd probably be a little more into sports. But, um, truthfully, Robyn's- Robyn's better than the girl of my dreams. She's real.

♪ He never, ever saw it coming at all. Never, ever saw it coming at all.♪

Tom walked to her apartment, intoxicated by the promise of the evening. He believed that this time...his expectations would align with reality.

(Expectations) Hi. Hey. You look nice. Yeah. Thanks. I like your tie.

(Reality) Hi. How are you doing? Good. How are you?

I, um, brought you something. That’s so nice. Thank you.

(Reality) That’s so nice. It’s the -. Thank you so much. No problem. I’m excited to read it. Yeah. Come on. So, Tom, what is it that you do? Uh, I write greeting cards. Tom could be a really great architect if he wanted to be. That’s unusual. I mean, what made you go from one to the other? I guess I just figured, why make something disposable, like a building, when you can make something that lasts forever, like a greeting card.

(Expectations) What?

(Reality) Do you guys know each other?

(440)

(441)

(441 1/2)

Get a room! Really.

(442)

Shit. I've been calling you every five minutes. Are you okay? I’m great. What happened to you? I don’t wanna talk about it. You always wanna talk about it. Not this. Okay. Well, come on. Let’s go. Where are we going? It’s Thursday!

This one says, "Go for it!" And this one says, “You can do it!” We have a whole line of inspirational photographic cards featuring Pickles, my cat. I think people will really enjoy them. Thank you. Good job, Rhoda. That's inspirational stuff.

Okay. Who's next? We haven't heard from Sympathy in a while. Hansen? Yeah? The Winter Collection? Do you have anything to contribute? Uh, no. I really don't. Okay. We'll come back to you. Uh, McKenzie?

Actually, you know what? Yes, Tom? Can I say something about the cat? Well, okay. Yeah, uh, this is-And, Rhoda, no disrespect here, but, um, this is total shit. “Go for it. You can do it.” That's not inspirational. That's suicidal. If Pickles goes for it right there, that's a dead cat. These are lies. We're liars. Think about it. Why do people buy these things? It's not 'cause they want to say how they feel. People buy cards 'cause they can't say how they feel, or they're afraid to. We provide the service that lets them off the hook. You know what? I say, to hell with it! Let's level with America. At least let them speak for themselves! Right? I mean, look! What- what is this? What does it say? “Congratulations on your new baby.” Right? How 'bout," Congratulations on your new baby. Guess that’s it for hanging out. Nice knowing you.” Sit down, Hansen. How 'bout this one, with all the pretty hearts on the front? I know where this is going. Yep! "Happy Valentine's Day, sweetheart. I love you." That sweet? Ain't love grand? This is exactly what I'm talking about. What does that even mean, "love"? Do you know? Do you? Anybody? Tom. If somebody gave me this card, Mr. Vance, I would eat it. It's- It's these cardsand the movies, and the pop songs-. They're to blame for all the lies...and the heartache, everything. And we're responsible. I'm responsible. I think we do a bad thing here. People should be able to say how they feel, how they really feel. Not, you know, some words that some strangers put in their mouths. Words like "love"...that don't mean anything. Sorry. I'm sorry. I, uh-I quit. I'm-There's enough bullshit in the world without my help.

(450)

All right. Next we do running drills. Hey, you're sketching again. Yeah, well, just doodling. Okay, Tom, we got 20 seconds. Talk to me. You okay? Yeah, I'm good. I'm great. You know, my friends are all in love with you. You know, it's like we said. Plenty of other fish in the sea. Thanks. But, uh, those are guppies. Yeah. Hey, Tom? Mmm. Look, I know you think that she was the one, but I don't. Now, I think you're just remembering the good stuff. Next time you look back, I, uh-I really think you should look again.

It’s playing at 5:00. Do you wanna see it? Um, I don't know. We could just go back to your place or-. No, I really want to see it. Let's go.

♪ Time it was and what a time it was. It was a time of innocence, a time of confidences. ♪

You okay? Yeah. What- what is it? The movie? It's nothing. I'm just-I'm just being stupid. Yeah? Yeah.

It pains me we live in a world...where nobody's heard of Spearmint. I’ve never heard of them. I put’em on that mix I made you. They're track one. Oh, yeah.

So, what do you wanna do? I think I'm just gonna call it a day. You don't wanna get some dinner? Are you hungry? You all right? I’m just tired. Okay. I got it. Pancakes!

(456-476)

♪Oh, girl, I don’t know all the reasons why. I found the answer looking in your eye. I go out walking all day long. Take away this lonely man. Soon he will be gone. ‘Cause I’ll tell you everything about living free. Yes, I can see you, girl. Can you see me? You don’t need to know what I do all day. It’s as much as I know watch it waste away. ‘Cause I’ll tell you everything about living free. Yes, I can see you, girl. Can you see me? ‘Cause I’ll tell you everything about being free. ♪

(488)

Hey, Tom.I thought I might see you here. I always loved this place, ever since you brought me. So I, uh-I guess I should say congratulations. Only if you mean it. Ah. Well, in that case-. So, are you okay? I will be, eventually. You wanna-.

I like your suit. Ah, thanks. You look sharp. So do you. Thanks. I quit the office. You did? I didn't know. That's great! And you, um-you're married. Yeah. It's crazy, huh? You should have told me when we were at the-. I know. You know, at the wedding when we were dancing. Well, he hadn’t asked me yet. But he was in your life. Yeah. So why’d you dance with me? 'Cause I wanted to. You just do what you want, don't you? You never wanted to be anybody's girlfriend, and now you're somebody's wife. Surprised me too. I don't think I'll ever understand that. I mean, it doesn't make sense. It just happened. Right, but that's what I don't understand. What just happened? I just- I just woke up one day, and I knew. Knew what? What I was never sure of with you. You know what sucks? Realizing that everything you believe in is complete and utter bullshit. It sucks. What do you mean? Uh, you know, destiny, and soul mates, and true love, and all that childhood fairy tale nonsense. You were right. I-I should have listened to you. No. Yeah. What? What are you smiling at? Tom. What? What are you looking at me like that for? Well, you know, I guess it's 'cause...I was sitting in a deli and reading Dorian Gray and... a guy comes up to me...and asked me about it, and... now he's my husband. Yeah. And... so? So, what if I'd gone to the movies? What if I had gone somewhere else for lunch? What if I'd gotten there10 minutes later? It was-. It was meant to be. And I just kept thinking, Tom was right. No. Yeah, I did. I did. It just wasn't me that you were right about.

I should go. But I'm really happy to see that you're doing well. Summer! I really do hope that you're happy.

(500)

Most days of the year are unremarkable. They begin and they end... with no lasting memories made in between. Most days have no impact on the course of a life. May 23 was a Wednesday.

Are you interviewing? Sorry? Are you interviewing for the position? Oh yeah. Why? Are you? Yeah. My competition. It would appear. Yeah. So, a little awkward. Yeah. Well, I hope you, um, don't get the job. Well, I hope you don't get the job. Have I seen you before? Me? I don't think so. Do you ever go to Angelus Plaza? Yes. That's, like, my favorite spot in the city. Yeah. Okay. Except for the parking lots, but-. Yeah. I-I agree. Yeah, yeah. I think I’ve seen you there. Really? Yeah. I haven’t seen you. You must not have been looking.

If Tom had learned anything, it was that you can't ascribe great cosmic significance to a simple earthly event. Coincidence. That's all anything ever is. Nothing more than coincidence.

Tom Hansen. Yeah. Come on back. Thank you.

Tom had finally learned there are no miracles. There's no such thing as fate. Nothing is meant to be. He knew. He was sure of it now. Tom was-.

Sorry. Um-. I just left, uh-Can I- one second.

He was pretty sure.

Hey. You again. Yeah. I, uh, was just wondering if maybe after this, if, um, you-you want to get some coffee or something. Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sort of supposed to meet someone after this. Okay. Sure. What’s that? Why not? Okay. Well, then I'll just, uh-I'll wait for you-. We- We'll figure it out. We'll figure it out. My name’s Tom. Nice to meet you. I’m Autumn.

(1)

♪ She's got you high | and you don't even know yet ♪ |

♪ She's got you high | and you don't even know yet ♪ |

♪ The sun's in the sky | It's warming up your bare legs ♪ |

♪ And you can't deny | you're looking for the sunset ♪ |

♪ She's got you high | and you don't even know yet ♪ |

♪ It's the search for the time | before it leaves without you ♪ |

♪ Have you lost your mind | or has she taken all of yours too ♪ |

♪ What's this about | I figured love would shine through ♪ |

♪ We've lost romance | This world, its turns will see you through ♪ |

♪ open your mind | Believe it's gonna come true ♪ |

♪ Keep romance alive | and hope she's gonna tell you ♪ |

♪ What's this about | I figured love would shine through ♪ |

♪ We've lost romance | This world, its turns will see you through ♪ |

♪ open your mind | Believe it's gonna come true ♪ |

♪ Keep romance alive | and hope she's gonna tell you ♪ |

♪ She's got you high | and you don't even know yet ♪ |

♪ The sun's in the sky | It makes for happy endings ♪ |

♪ You can't deny | you want a happy ending ♪ |

♪ What's this about | I figured love would shine through ♪ |

♪ We've lost romance | This world, its turns will see you through ♪ |

♪ open your mind | Believe it's gonna come true ♪ |

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