

NIRVANA

Written by

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INT. BAR- FRIDAY NIGHT

Inside an empty bar. ROB, 38 White man wearing a suit, loosened tie. The Bartender slides him a glass. He sips on the drink. He looks around the room. He sighs. His phone rings as it sits next to his drink.

INSERT PHONE SCREEN

We see JESSICA is calling. The photo id is a picture of Rob smiling and Jessica kissing him on the cheek.

He clicks the side of this phone to ignore the call. He sips on his drink- it's strong.

The door opens and we can hear the pouring rain outside.

CHÉ, 29 Black woman, steps from behind the barrier. She wears a camouflage jacket, leggings, long straight wig. She shakes off some water and folds her umbrella. We hear her phone ringing. Ignoring her phone she sits 2 seats away from Rob. Rob watches her. Intrigued. She pulls out the chair and sits. She makes eye contact with Rob. She gives a friendly smile. She flashes her hand to flag the bartender. Bartender doesn't respond. She sighs.

Her phone rings. She grabs it out of her bag. She looks at the phone. Clicks a button to ignore the call and turns off the ringer. She uses her hand to grab the bartender's attention once more. He walks by her without acknowledgment.

Her phone rings again. She rolls her eyes in annoyance. She slides her finger across the phone. Places her phone to her ear. Rob glances at her periodically.

CHÉ

(Annoyed)

Yes? I just landed about 30 minutes ago. Well, I'm sorry I didn't call you immediately - I was trying to catch my - Mom, please don't start. I don't know where I'm staying yet - Ma, because I was want to. I'll be fine. I don't need your or his permission. Bye, Ma.

She hangs up placing the phone on the counter. She exhales. She looks at Rob. He smiles at her. She gives a slight smile back. She flashes her hand at the bartender. Who is walking back towards her. He looks but doesn't acknowledge her.

CHÉ (CONT'D)

Seriously?

Rob catches the bartender's attention.

ROB

Excuse me. Can you please assist her?

The bartender looks annoyed but he looks over to her.

BARTENDER

What can I get for you?

CHÉ

Can I just get a whiskey please?
Thank you.

BARTENDER

ID.

She moves things around her bag. She pulls out a wallet She grabs her ID. Hands it to him. He looks at it and looks at her. He looks at it then at her again.

CHÉ

Ten thirty-one eighty nine. Do you
need my social while you
investigate my identification?

He stares at her in disapproval. She raises her eye brow at him. He slides the ID on the counter to her. She picks it up.

CHÉ (CONT'D)

Make that Jameson please. Thanks.

Rob chuckles to himself. Bartender turns around pours her drink and hands it to her. She studies the drink for a moment. She takes a sip.

ROB

I think you made him mad.

CHÉ

I'm sorry?

ROB

The bartender. I think you made him mad.

CHÉ

Well, he can kiss my ass.

Her phone rings. She looks at it. She's hesitant. She click ignore. Rob notices. He looks at the Air Force emblem on her jacket.

ROB

Did you serve?

CHÉ

What?

He nods toward her jacket. She looks at her arm.

ROB

Did you serve in the Air Force?

CHÉ

Oh. No. It was my dad's.

ROB

Oh.

She looks at him for a moment.

CHÉ

Did you?

Rob sips and swallows.

ROB
Yea. Navy.

CHÉ
Well, thank you for your service.

ROB
People say that a lot. Most of the
time they don't mean it.

CHÉ
Well, I do. My dad was in the Air
Force for 20 years.

ROB
Wow. Tell *him* I said thank you for
his service.

Her phone rings again. They both look at it on the counter.

INSERT PHONE SCREEN

We see on the screen of her phone "BABE"

ROB
Babe is calling.

CHÉ
Seems like the more I want to be
left alone the more people want to
bother me.

ROB
I'm sorry. I don't mean to bother-

CHÉ
No, no, no. You're fine. I just
want to be alone but I don't want
to feel-

ROB
Alone.

They look at each other for a moment.

CHÉ

Yea. It's like - I want to be present but I don't want to be the me I am - I want to be the me I want to be-

ROB

And not what everyone else wants you to be.

She looks at him pleasantly shocked. He sips his drinks. She smiles. She sips her drink to hide her smile.

ROB (CONT'D)

I get it - just needed to get away.

There's an awkward silence. Her eyes wonder around the bar for a moment. She looks back at Rob.

CHÉ

Where are you from?

ROB

New York.

CHÉ

The city?

ROB

Yep.

CHÉ

Is it as busy as everyone says?

ROB

Busier.

She points to the chair right next to him.

CHÉ

Do you mind?

ROB

No please.

He stands up and pulls the chair out. She stares at it for a moment.

CHÉ

Thank you. My fiance' doesn't do that for me.

She sits. Sips her drink.

ROB

Sounds like a douche.

She looks at him puzzled for a moment. He sips and swallows.

ROB (CONT'D)

Oh, God I'm sorry. I have this level of sarcasm that may be unhealthy at times. I didn't mean to offend you.

CHÉ

(Chuckles)

You didn't. It's exactly what he is. I just never put it in words.

ROB

Does he make you happy?

CHÉ

He did at one point. I'm not even the same girl he fell in love with.

ROB

How so?

CHÉ

Five years can fly by if you're just - existing.

ROB

Do you feel like he's the one?

She stares at him for a moment. She looks off for a second and think.

CHÉ

(Realizing)

No.

ROB

Then why are you marrying him?

She stares at the ring on her left hand. She twists the ring around her finger.

CHÉ

Because, it's what everyone expect me to do.

ROB

I'm tired of always doing what's expected of me.

CHÉ

Or whatever anyone wants of me.

Rob's phone lights up. They both look at it.

INSERT PHONE SCREEN

Text from JESSICA: Where the hell are you?

He shakes his head. He holds the side of his phone. Turns it off. Ché watches him. She picks up her glass.

ROB

I'm supposed to be in New York proposing to my girlfriend. But I was sitting at my desk in Manhattan. Looking at the ring she picked out. Wearing this suit she picked out. For a family dinner her and her mother arranged. That what's expected of me right now. At this very moment.

CHÉ

So how'd you end up in Nashville?

He digs in his pocket and pulls a box out. He slides it to Ché. She opens it. She is stunned.

CHÉ (CONT'D)

It's gorgeous.

INT. ROBS OFFICE - MANHATTAN - SAME DAY - EARLY MORNING

Rob sits at his desk. He holds the ring box in he hand, rolling it around, legs shaking. He closes his laptop and stands up. He looks out the window and sighs.

His phone dings. We see a message from Jessica: "Tonight is going to be so special". He clears the message from his phone and places it on his desk.

He opens the ring box. He opens it and just stares at it. He shakes his head, closes it, places it right back in his pocket. He sits back at his desk opens his computer. We see him typing hard and quickly.

INSERT COMPUTER SCREEN

We see a travel website. He scrolls over flights. We see flights for multiple cities. He hover over a flight for Nashville at 12:20pm. He looks at the time in the corner of his computer screen. We see 9:04am. The cursor hovers over buy tickets for a moment. We see the cursor moves and clicks "one way." The cursor clicks buy. We see a confirmation show on the screen.

He closes the laptop and places it in his bag. He places it on his shoulder and walk out of his office door.

CHE

Were you nervous?

ROB

My heart was telling me no. I'm 38,
you'd think I'd be settled down.
Home owner, white picket fence,
married 2 and a half kids.

She chuckles.

ROB (CONT'D)

I do want that - just not with her.

CHÉ

What do you want?

He looks at her for a moment.

ROB

Me. Selfish right?

He finished his drink. He nods at her glass.

ROB (CONT'D)

Another?

CHÉ

He might not acknowledge me again.

Rob flashes his hand to the bartender. Bartender walks over.

ROB

Let me get two of those Nirvanas.

CHÉ

What's that?

ROB

I don't know but I want to try.

CHÉ

Sounds good to me.

The bartender returns with their drinks. It's a big glass with a greenish blue liquid and an umbrella hanging out the top.

CHÉ (CONT'D)

This looks super fruity.

Her phone rings again. BABE is calling. They both look at the phone. She stares at it for a moment. Rob reaches his hand towards it.

ROB

May I?

She nods yes. He picks up her phone and holds the side button.

INSERT PHONE SCREEN

The power off button lights up on her phone. He holds the phone out to her. She looks at him for a moment.

She slides her finger across. He hands her the phone. She drops it in her bag. She lift up her glass.

CHÉ

Cheers to us and not doing what is expected of us and doing whatever the fuck we want.

ROB

Cheers.

They clink their drinks together and take a sip.

CHÉ

Oh my, God that is so good.

ROB

Surprisingly pleasant.

They laugh. Ché laughs a little harder and longer. Rob looks at her amused. He smiles.

CHÉ

God, it feels like I haven't laughed in a long time.

ROB

Why is that?

CHÉ

I just haven't been happy lately. Not depressed or anything but just-blah.

ROB

Is it because of Babe?

CHE

Partly.

ROB

Tell me about him.