

LOVE LIVES UPSTAIRS
By
Rui Miguel Marques

Rui Miguel Marques
ruimfreitas@hotmail.com
+32 498 191186

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FADE IN:

EXT. STREET - LATE AFTERNOON

It's an autumn day. AMY, 29, walks with her DOG attached by the lead. She wears a long grey coat and carries her purse. JOHN, 30, walks among the crowd. He wears a suit and carries his briefcase. Amy arrives at a building, she takes the keys out of her purse and tries different keys in the lock. John arrives at the same building. He waits for Amy to open the door. The dog barks several times at John.

AMY

Sting, shut up!

Amy tries another key. A BUNCH OF KEYS fell on the floor. She bends down.

AMY (CONT'D)

Shit.

John looks at her, holding his keys.

JOHN

Should I?

Amy moves aside, the dog is still barking.

AMY

Oh yeah, sure. Sting, be quite!

John puts his keys in the lock, the dog barks louder. The dog jumps at John's lower leg, acts as if it is having sex with it and stops barking. John shakes his leg, trying to shake the dog off and open the door at the same time. Amy bends down to separate her dog from John's leg.

AMY (CONT'D)

Sting, come on! Let go! Get down!

Amy settles the dog down. John opens the door.

AMY

I'm so sorry for that.

John goes inside the building. He holds the door and Amy follows with her dog.

INT. BUILDING / ENTRANCE HALL - SAME

AMY releases her DOG from the lead. The dog runs upstairs.

JOHN

It's a very energetic dog.

AMY

Yes, it is.

JOHN

He needs a girlfriend.

Amy laughs. She is embarrassed.

AMY

Oh, Jesus, I'm really sorry.
He never did that before.

JOHN

It's really not a big deal.
I'm John by the way.

John extends his hand to Amy.

AMY

(shakes hands)

Hi. I'm Amy. Nice to meet you.

JOHN

New here?

AMY

Yeah, second day. Trying to
get to know the place.

JOHN

I'm your new neighbour. Second
floor.

AMY

I'm on the third.

JOHN

(points to the stairs)

Shall we?

AMY

Yeah, sure.

John and Amy proceed upstairs.

JOHN

Are you new here or are you just new in the city?

AMY

I'm from a small village 50 miles away from here. So, kind of new.

JOHN

Because of your job or your.. boyfriend?

AMY

No, my job. I broke up with my boyfriend after I found out he was shagging my sister.

JOHN

Wow, that is rough.

AMY

(embarrassed)

Wow... sorry... I don't know you at all. I don't know why I told you this. I'm so sorry.

JOHN

It's ok, don't worry. I don't know you boyfriend or your sister.

AMY

I'm sorry. I should run. My dog is already up. I have to open the door for him.

JOHN

Ok. Make sure you use the right key now.

AMY

Actually I have a little problem there. My lock is broken, I don't really need a key to get in the house.

JOHN

Thanks for the information.

AMY
(smiles)

Ok. Bye now.

Amy runs upstairs.

JOHN

Hey, Amy!

Amy misses one step and falls on her knee. It hurts but she doesn't want to show John. She turns to him, her hair over her face.

AMY

Yes?

JOHN

First of all: Are you ok?

AMY

Yes, I'm fine. Just not used to these steps yet.

JOHN

Good. I was thinking, you know... you said you are new here, alone tonight, me too, so I thought I could show you around. It's still early. I mean, if you have no plans.

AMY

No, I have no plans.

JOHN

Perfect. So, in 15 minutes downstairs?

AMY

Ok. Fine for me.

INT. JOHN'S FLAT / ENTRANCE HALL - SAME

JOHN comes in, closes the door with his foot, drops his briefcase on the floor and starts to take off his tie. He runs through the LIVING ROOM.

INT. AMY'S FLAT / ENTRANCE HALL - SAME

The door opens and the DOG goes running inside. There are BOXES everywhere.

AMY comes in, takes off her coat and hangs it behind the door. She takes her shoes off, starts hopping through the room on one leg, holding her injured knee in her hand. It still hurts.

INT. JOHN'S FLAT / BATHROOM - SAME

The water is running in the sink. JOHN washes his face and dries it with a towel. He is in a hurry. He fixes his shirt collar, looks at himself in the mirror. He likes what he sees. He picks up a perfume bottle, sprays it several times on his neck, his arms and his hair. He sniffs the air. He looks at the perfume bottle. It says: EAU DE TOILETTE FOR WOMEN. He throws the bottle in the bin.

JOHN

Fuck that. Hellen!

He runs the water in the sink again, washes his face and neck thoroughly.

INT. AMY'S FLAT / BEDROOM - SAME

There are many dresses on Amy's bed. AMY is only in underwear in front of the mirror. She holds different dresses in front of herself, looks in the mirror but she can't decide.

INT. BUILDING / STAIRS - EARLY EVENING

JOHN leaves his flat and locks his door.

INT. AMY'S FLAT / ENTRANCE HALL - SAME

AMY comes running in to put on her high heeled shoes left by the door. To her surprise the DOG is peeing on them.

AMY

Sting, no! Why now? Go away!

The dog runs away.

INT. BUILDING / ENTRANCE HALL - SAME

JOHN comes downstairs. He waits by the entrance, looks at his watch, he is right on time. He puts his hands in his pockets and starts to whistle. He sees all the mail boxes in front of him. He looks to one that says AMY PHILLIPS. He opens it, tries to see what is inside.

We hear FOOT STEPS on the stairs, they are Amy's high heels on the wooden steps. John puts his hands quickly back in his pockets. AMY comes running down. She sees John and slows down.

AMY

Sorry. My dog peed on my shoes
and I had to look for new
ones.

JOHN

Naughty dog.

Amy moves closer to John.

JOHN (CONT'D)

You look beautiful.

John opens the building door. They go out.

EXT. STREET - EARLY EVENING

MONTAGE OF AMY AND JOHN IN THE CITY:

1. JOHN and AMY walk around. John shows Amy some buildings.
2. JOHN and AMY walk in a park. Amy laughs.
3. JOHN and AMY have a drink in a terrace. They sit together and they have a blanket covering them, because of the fresh air.
4. JOHN buys AMY a burger from a man on the street. They eat it while they walk.

INT. JOHN'S FLAT / LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

JOHN opens a bottle of red wine. He serves two glasses of it. There are candles all around. AMY is close to the TV, holding a microphone.

AMY

Why do you have it?

John approaches Amy. He gives her a glass of wine.

JOHN

I sing sometimes.

John switches on the microphone.

AMY

You sing?

JOHN

No. Now you do.

AMY

(passes the microphone to
John)

No, no, no. I can't.

JOHN

Of course you can. Come on.
Only 10 seconds.

Amy thinks about a song.

AMY

Ok, for 10 seconds I have one.

Amy sings a bit of EVERYBODY from Madonna. John laughs.

JOHN

Oh dear Lord. Is this Madonna?

Amy nods, without stopping to sing.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(whispers)

It's good.

Amy stops singing. She passes the microphone to John.

AMY

Ok, enough. Madonna wouldn't
be happy if I keep singing.
Your turn now.

John takes the microphone from Amy.

JOHN

Ok, but I'll go for something
a bit more romantic.

AMY

Ok.

John sings CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE from Elvis Presley.
He moves closer to Amy, puts his arm around her waist and
they dance. Amy hesitates but then she puts her hands on
John's shoulder. They kiss.

INT. JOHN'S FLAT / BEDROOM - MORNING

There are clothes all over the floor. The sun is shining through the window.

JOHN and AMY are lying in bed.

JOHN

This is all thanks to your dog.

Amy laughs.

AMY

Actually my dog is gay.

JOHN

Well, I saw it yesterday.

AMY

No, really. I have a gay brother who says my dog has gay feelings. This is why he liked you.

JOHN

What do you mean by that? I ain't gay.

AMY

Lucky me. But he just felt your masculine presence and attacked you.

JOHN

So did you.

Amy hits John with a pillow. The door BELL rings. John gets out of bed, only in his underwear.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I better get it.

John exits. Amy lies in bed looking at the ceiling.

WOMAN (O.S.)

I won't be long.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Why you never tell me when you come? What if I'm not here?

WOMAN (O.S.)

Then you are not. But now you
are. I need a shower.

Amy gets scared. She turns to the bedside table and opens a drawer. She sees a portrait inside with a picture of John and another woman. The water starts running in the SHOWER. Amy picks up a wedding ring from the drawer. Furious she puts the ring inside, shuts the drawer. She gets out of bed, collects her clothes from the floor and leaves the bedroom.

INT. JOHN'S FLAT / LIVING ROOM - SAME

JOHN opens the curtains. AMY comes in, wearing only her panties, the rest of her clothes pressed against her naked breast. She goes straight to the door, John tries to stop her.

JOHN

Hey, wait.

AMY

(tears in her eyes)

Don't touch me.

JOHN

I can explain.

AMY

Are you gonna explain it to me
or to her?

JOHN

What you mean? I can't tell
everybody I had one nice night
shag with my neighbour.

Amy can't believe what she just heard. Tears run down her face.

AMY

I'm sorry I ever moved to this
building. Nobody ever
humiliated me like this.

Amy leaves.

INT. AMY'S FLAT / BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

There is only one bed in the room as furniture, all the rest are boxes and some clothes on the floor.

AMY closes the curtains, the room becomes dark. She lies in bed and cries.

EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

JOHN sits alone on a bench. The grass is covered by yellow leaves from the trees. He feeds some ducks with some old bread. His thoughts are far away.

INT. AMY'S FLAT / LIVING ROOM - EARLY NIGHT

Only lights from outside illuminate the room. AMY sits on a red couch, drinking some red wine. She feels lonely.

INT. JOHN'S FLAT / LIVING ROOM - SAME

JOHN watches TV and flicks channels constantly. He is not paying attention to what is on. He checks his cell phone. No calls.

INT. AMY'S FLAT / LIVING ROOM - MORNING

AMY sleeps on the couch, on the floor there is an empty wine bottle and a glass. She wakes up with the bright light in the room. She checks her watch.

AMY

Shit!

She is late. She stands up in a hurry, starts to undress and put on the first thing she finds in her way.

INT. JOHN'S FLAT / RESTROOM - MORNING

JOHN is about to shave. He looks at himself for a moment in the mirror. He washes his face.

EXT. SUBWAY STATION / STAIRS - MORNING

AMY runs down the stairs. She is late.

EXT. STREET - SAME

JOHN, wearing his bathrobe, walks carrying two big bags. In one of the bags there are some beautiful red roses.

INT. SUBWAY STATION - LATE AFTERNOON

PEOPLE move in and out of the subway. It is packed.

EXT. STREET / FRONT BUILDING - LATE AFTERNOON

AMY walks among the crowd. She is tired.

She takes her keys out of her purse, opens the building door and goes inside.

INT. BUILDING / AMY'S DOOR - SAME

AMY goes up the stairs and opens her door.

INT. AMY'S FLAT / LIVING ROOM - SAME

AMY comes in.

AMY

Ahhhh!

She gets scared. The room is completely organized, there are a lot of candles all around. It's very beautiful. JOHN stands in the middle of the room, holding red roses.

AMY (CONT'D)

What the hell are you doing here?

JOHN

I remembered about the story about your door not closing properly and I thought it was an invitation for me to come in and fix it. I tried.

AMY

Yes... I mean, no! That was no invitation! Why did you do it?

JOHN

Because I'm truly sorry. I'm sorry for what I did. I'm sorry for what I said. I didn't want to hurt you.

AMY

This is all very nice of you but I don't need a guy who is already involved with somebody else.

JOHN

No, listen. You misunderstood everything. You just...

AMY

I heard her! I saw her picture
and the fucking wedding ring
you probably took off to sleep
with me!

JOHN

No! She is not my wife or
anything. She's my ex-
girlfriend. She doesn't mean
anything to me anymore. She
just came to pick up some of
her stuff.

AMY

In the shower?

JOHN

She is like that. I reacted
like a jerk, coz I didn't know
how to explain that to you.

(pause)

I think you are an incredible
woman. My life is full of loss
and I don't want it anymore. I
want to get to know you
better. I don't want you to
go.

The DOG comes in. It has a dildo in its mouth.

AMY

Sting! What the hell...

(to John)

What the hell is this?

JOHN

I couldn't come up with
anything better to please him
too.

Amy laughs. John turns on the stereo with the remote
control. CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE starts to play. John
gives the flowers to Amy.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Shall we?

Amy smiles. She goes to John, takes the flowers and hugs
him. The dog leaves. John and Amy dance. They kiss.

CUT TO BLACK.