

UNDER THE CUPID SIGN

by

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FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

There is an office of a small firm. Several co-workers sit at the desks.

BRUNO (22), a shy guy, sits among them.

KRISTIN (35) enters.

KRISTIN

Bruno, the boss is looking for you again. He is in a rage! I can't understand why aren't you able to complete your assignments in time?

BRUNO

And what did I do wrong... this time?

KRISTIN

I don't know... He will tell you... but be prepared for the worst...

Bruno sighs heavily, takes some papers from the table.

BRUNO

Well, I am off...

KRISTIN

Go, go... and try to return... in one piece!

The co-workers smile. MARGARET (30) and PAUL (23), a strong-built guy, exchange ironical glances. Bruno leaves.

KRISTIN

My God, what a guy! He still needs a nanny. When will he grow up finally!

MARGARET

But he is clever and well-educated... just timid, afraid of everything and unable to stand up for himself.

PAUL

Why are you defending him? He is just a loser. He must join our karate team. There he will quickly become a man.

Paul performs a sequence of punches in the air.

MARGARET

All you have in your head is fighting, Paul, like a gladiator, but Bruno is a delicate person.

PAUL

Who needs delicacy? A man should be a fighter, strong and brave... and, in general, he gets on my nerves.

INT. STUDY - DAY

Bruno enters the chief's office. HENRY (40) sits at his desk and studies some papers.

BRUNO

Were you looking for me?

HENRY

I am very angry. You came in late today again and, furthermore, you haven't prepared a response to the letter you received a week ago. Why can't you finish anything in time?!

BRUNO

What letter? I know nothing about this letter...

HENRY

How come you don't know? Why do I have to remind you all the time? Where is your head?

BRUNO

Sorry, but I have not seen this letter.

HENRY

What do you mean "not seen"? Where is this letter?

Henry searches through the papers on his desk.

HENRY

Oh, here it is!

He proffers the letter to Bruno.

BRUNO

I will deal with it immediately.

HENRY

Yes, do it now. The response must be on my desk before the end of the day.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Bruno walks along his street and meets a PRIEST (50) who is talking with an elderly couple.

BRUNO

Good afternoon, Father.

Bruno kisses the priest's hand.

BRUNO

I am very glad to meet you.

PRIEST

Good day, my son. How are you, Bruno? I hope you haven't forgotten that we are going to have a celebratory Mass?

BRUNO

Of course not! I remember. I will attend for sure. Goodbye, Father.

Bruno leaves.

PRIEST

(to the elderly couple)

A good boy, polite and modest. In our days there are few young people like him...

INT. COFFEE SHOP - EVENING

Bruno enters a coffee shop. He sits down at a table.

A waitress DORIS (20) approaches.

DORIS

Hi, Bruno. What's going on? Will you have the usual?

BRUNO

Hi, Doris. Yes, the usual... and a cake too, please. I had a hard time today.

Doris brings Bruno a tray with plates.

A noisy group of four thugs (18-20) enters the coffee shop. They sit down laughing loudly.

Doris comes to their table.

DORIS

What will you have?

THE FIRST

Are you free, baby? Would you like to love me? I will be good!

THE SECOND

And with me too! It will be fun with me.

THE FIRST

Bring us a drink, baby. We will pick you up after your shift and we can play around.

The first thug grabs Doris round the waist, hugs her forcefully and sits her on his knee. All the company laughs.

Several customers leave the coffee shop in a hurry.

Bruno is sitting at his table and tries not to look in the direction of the thugs. One can see that he is frightened. Suddenly, he stands up resolutely, comes to their table and shouts with a fearful voice.

BRUNO

Leave her alone!

THE FIRST

Guys, he wants to interfere with us having fun! Let's show this bastard how to mind his own business!

One of the thugs hits Bruno in the stomach. All thugs rise and begin to beat Bruno.

He falls.

They kick him with their feet. They drag him out onto the street by his hands.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - EVENING

Bruno falls onto the asphalt. His face is covered in blood. He lays and silently groans from pain.

A beautiful girl JEANE (19) approaches.

JEANE

Can I help you? Are you sick or hurt? Do you want to cry?

Bruno sits up with difficulty.

BRUNO

I never cry!

JEANE

You need help... Your face is covered in blood.

Jeane bends over him and mopes off blood from Bruno's face with her scarf.

BRUNO

Thank you. I'm OK. I think we have to get away... far and quickly. They can come out...

Bruno looks back at the entrance of the coffee shop cautiously.

JEANE

Can you stand up?

Jeane helps him to stand up.

JEANE

Let us go back to the coffee shop.  
I think there is some unfinished  
business there.

BRUNO

There are four of them... and they  
are strong and aggressive...

JEANE

Don't be afraid, I am with you.  
I'll fix everything! They should  
apologize.

BRUNO

Are you joking?

JEANE

I am not joking! Let's go.

She supports him and they enter the coffee shop.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - EVENING

They pass by the hooligans. Bruno wears a frightened  
expression.

THE FIRST (to Bruno)

Hey, guy, haven't you had enough?  
Do you want some more? Well, you  
will get it!

THE FIRST (to his friends)

Guys, let's have fun.

THE SECOND

And he has such a nice girl with  
him!

The thugs stand up and follow Bruno and Jeane.

Doris retreats into the back room.

Jeane stops and turns to the thugs.

JEANE

I think you should apologize.

Jeane is standing with her back towards the camera, her face is not seen.

THE FIRST

What? Are you out of your mind,  
baby?

THE SECOND

Hey guys, I am choking with  
laughter. Where did he find this  
whore?

The thugs approach nearer.

Jeane raises her left hand, her fingers are slightly crooked.

Suddenly, the expression on their faces changes from threatening to frightened. They stop.

The face of the First thug starts to twitch; a trickle of blood appears from his nose. All the thugs stare at Jeane with a frozen look. A sense of horror appears in their eyes.

JEANE

Down to your knees! Kneel and  
apologize.

The thugs fall to their knees.

THE FIRST

Forgive us. Please. We won't do it  
anymore.

JEANE

Okay. You can go.

The thugs stand up and retreat watching carefully Jeane's face.

JEANE

That is all. Get out of here.

The thugs turn around and pushing each other leave the coffee shop.

Jeane stands with her back to Bruno, waiting for a while and then turns slowly around.

JEANE

Well, you see, everything ended well. Let's have some coffee, you have to calm down and recover yourself.

BRUNO

How did you do it? They were really scared! I am amazed, just couldn't believe my eyes...

JEANE

They are cowards and are aggressive only to these who are weaker than them.

The waitress approaches.

DORIS

I thought there will be another fight. I was going to call the police, but suddenly heard that they fled. Poor Bruno! You suffered because of me... you did not have to interfere with them, but you were brave and showed courage. Thank you. One against all of them like a real hero. You surprised me... Dinner's on the house.

BRUNO

Thank you, Doris, I'll take a rain check.

Bruno stands up, tries to go, but can not because of the pain in his leg.

JEANE

Let me help you. Where do you live?

BRUNO

Not far from here.

Jeane places his hand on her shoulder. Bruno limps heavily and holds his leg.

JEANE

Lean on me!

INT. APARTMENT - EVENING

Jeane and Bruno enter his apartment.

Bruno lies on the sofa with difficulty.

Jeane looks around, sees a shelf of books and the Bible.

JEANE

Are you religious?

BRUNO

The belief brings me calm and confidence...

JEANE

The belief brings nothing! It is a deception for the weak spirit. It is ridiculous to worship whom nobody has ever seen!

BRUNO

But to worship idols is worse, am I right? The choice is very limited indeed: either God or the Golden Taurus!

Jeane shrugs her shoulders in irritation then gently removes his shirt.

Bruno's face and body are covered with blood marks.

Jeane bends over him and starts to lick his wounds. Bruno gets aroused but tries to stay cool.

After a while, he embraces Jeane timidly and kisses her. Jeane politely extracts from his embrace.

JEANE

I must go.

BRUNO

Let us meet tomorrow, for a walk...

JEANE

Okay, until tomorrow then. Relax.  
You will get well soon...

EXT. PARK - DAY

Bruno and Jeane walk slowly around a park holding hands.

JEANE

It is the first time that you have  
free time on a working day. Has  
something happened?

BRUNO

I didn't want to tell you but I was  
fired.

JEANE

Why?

BRUNO

My boss didn't like me from the  
start; he always picked on little  
things, reprimanded me for every  
trivial incident... and yesterday  
he fired and insulted me.

JEANE

Let me speak to him.

BRUNO

Are you crazy!? My boss is a  
terrible person; he will shout at  
you and throw you out. You won't be  
able to open your mouth.

Jeane embraces Bruno, pats him on the head and they  
kiss.

JEANE

I want to try.

EXT. STREET - DAY

On the street, near the entrance of the firm Jeane and  
Bruno meet Bruno's co-workers.

MARGARET

I heard that you were fired, Bruno.  
I am so sorry.

PAUL (looks at Jeane)

Bruno, introduce me to your  
girlfriend. I want to steal her  
away from you, she doesn't suit  
you. Too beautiful!

Paul laughs then coughs and stops talking. He looks at  
Jeane with a frightened expression.

BRUNO

Thank you, Margaret. Goodbye.

Jeane and Bruno turn around and enter the building.

PAUL

You know, Margaret, I had a strange  
feeling just now that if I said  
another word, she would kill me.  
Indeed! Even my insides have  
frozen; my hands and legs became  
numb...

MARGARET

Paul, you acquired some infantile  
fears after your contests at the  
ring. Your karate will drive you  
mad.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Jeane and Bruno approach the chief's office.

JEANE

Wait here.

Jeane enters the office. The chief's secretary sits at  
the table.

KRISTIN

Hello. Can I help you? What is your  
name? Do you have an appointment?

JEANE

I need to talk to your boss.

KRISTIN

He is busy now.

JEANE

I don't care.

Jeane moves toward the door of the boss. Kristin jumps up, trying to say something but Jeane raises her left hand with flat fingers and Kristin falls back into her seat powerless. Jeane enters the study.

HENRY

Who are you? What do you want?

JEANE

I need you to give Bruno back his job.

HENRY

What? How dare you? Get out!

Henry jumps up, but Jeane (BACK TO CAMERA) raises her left hand again and he falls back into his seat. He looks fearfully at Jeane.

HENRY

I will do anything you ask.

JEANE

And he will get a promotion.

HENRY

Okay!

JEANE

I see you got it right. Thank you for your cooperation. Goodbye.

Jeane stands still for a while (BACK TO CAMERA). After some time she turns and leaves the study.

JEANE

Goodbye, Kristin.

Jeane joins Bruno.

JEANE

Everything is fixed. He rehired you and... increased your salary. Are you satisfied?

BRUNO

How did you manage that? Are you hypnotizing them? Seriously, how do you do it?

JEANE

I am able to smile the right way at the right time. This helps greatly in solving problems.

BRUNO

Jeane, I want to marry you. I want you to be my wife. I love you and want to be with you.

JEANE

Thank you, my dear. I love you too and you will have the most faithful wife in the world.

Bruno is hugging Jeane. They kiss, hold hands and go out into the street smiling at each other.

INT. PHOTO BOOTH - DAY

They enter a photo booth and pose hugging in front of the camera.

INT. CHURCH - EVENING

Bruno comes into the church, approaches the priest.

BRUNO

Holy Father, I need to talk to you.

PRIEST

What worries you, Bruno?

BRUNO

I have a problem. I decided to get married...

Bruno shows his picture with Jeane.

PRIEST

Well, that is not a problem. It is time you started a family. Congratulations.

BRUNO

The problem is that she refuses to get married at the church. She does not believe in God. Can you marry us at home in a short ceremony?

PRIEST

I understand how difficult it is for you. But have faith, Bruno, even the biggest atheists returned to the fold of the church sometimes. There is always hope. I will marry you at home.

BRUNO

Thank you, Father. I am so grateful to you.

INT. APARTMENT - EVENING

Bruno's colorfully decorated apartment, the table is laid out with drinks and refreshments.

Jeane wears in a regular dress. Bruno wears a groom's suit. In the apartment there are his co-workers: Henry, Kristin, Margaret, Paul and others, Doris and the priest.

PRIEST

Today is a very joyous day - Bruno is getting married. I wish you much happiness and a long life together. Now we start a wedding procedure.

The priest takes a little plate with rings, but his hand begins to tremble and the rings fall to the floor.

Jeane quickly picks up the rings and puts them on the finger of Bruno and herself. She hugs Bruno and they kiss.

JEANE

Now we will celebrate our wedding.

MARGARET  
Congratulations!

Everyone drinks champagne, there is music, dancing.

The priest looks amusingly at Jeane and leaves the apartment.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jeane sits and combs her hair. Bruno comes into the bedroom.

BRUNO  
I need to ask you a very important question. Some of my friends feel that you are... a witch. Tell me the truth, are they right?

JEANE  
Who said it?

BRUNO  
It's not important! Are you a witch? Is it my end? Do you want to kill me now?

JEANE  
No, of course not. I love you, my little boy. Yes, I am a witch! But what does it matter? You will be happy with me.

Bruno grabs his head.

BRUNO  
My God, I married a witch!

JEANE  
Take it easy, Bruno. Count yourself lucky. I am your protector. In addition, I can become any woman you like. You do not have to search for someone on the side. Any woman that you desire, you will have immediately. Black, Japanese, slim or fat, young or experienced will be in your bed. The most beautiful

and famous women will be happy to cater to your desires. You will be the most fortunate man on the Earth.

Jeane takes his hand. Bruno sits on the bed next to Jeane. She hugs Bruno. They kiss passionately and lay on the bed. Jeane switches off the light.

PAUSE

KRISTIN (v.o. whispers)  
Bruno! Bruno, wake up!

Bruno opens his eyes, looks at Kristin.

Kristin stands near his bed and presses a finger to her lips. Kristin invites him (without words) to follow her.

Bruno looks at Jeane. She sleeps. He stands up, wears and goes with Kristin into another room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

There are the priest and Henry.

PRIEST  
Is she asleep?

BRUNO  
Yes. (surprised) What are you doing here?

PRIEST  
You must kill her - she is a witch! Here is an ancient wooden cross; you must thrust it into her, directly into her heart. This is a unique means!

BRUNO  
I cannot do it. She loves me.

HENRY  
You must! You have to do it for yourself and for all of us.

KRISTIN

You have to! It is obligatory!

BRUNO

I cannot, it is more than I'm  
able...

PRIEST

You must! Do your duty! Go ahead,  
my son. God bless you!

The priest solemnly passes him a large wooden cross.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bruno comes into the bedroom and thrusts the wooden  
cross into her chest. Jeane opens her eyes widely.

JEANE (whispers)

Why did you do it? I loved you...  
What pain!

A tear drips from her eye and Jeane dies.

The priest, Henry and Kristin come into the bedroom.  
All of them look at Jeane.

Her body becomes white, transparent and then  
disappears. The wooden cross falls with a deaf thud.

PRIEST

Thank you, my son. You have done  
it. You were very brave. I am proud  
of you.

Henry and Kristin approach Bruno hug him, shake his  
hand.

HENRY

You are a bold spirit, Bruno. Thank  
you.

KRISTIN

You have saved us all.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Bruno stands by the window and looks outside sadly,  
then sighs heavily, exits the apartment.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

He goes to a bus stop. Slightly waits, a bus comes.

Suddenly the thug group (from the coffee shop scene) pushes Bruno aside.

THE FIRST

Our "hero"! Glad to see you,  
son of a bitch! Do you remember  
me?

THE SECOND

Where is your girlfriend?

The First beats Bruno and the thugs get on the bus laughing loudly. The bus leaves.

Bruno remains alone at the bus stop. He sits down on the bench, takes out the picture from his pocket and looks at it amazingly.

In the photo he stands by himself hugging the empty space near him. (Jeane disappeared from the picture) Bruno looks up.

BRUNO (whispers)

Why did I do it? Why did I kill  
her?

He covers his eyes with a hand and starts to cry.

FADE OUT:

PAUSE

SHE (v.o.)

Sorry! Sorry!

FADE IN:

Bruno opens his eyes. A beautiful girl (19) stands before him.

SHE

You are crying! Are you sick or  
hurt? Can I help you?

BRUNO (crying)

I have lost my beloved! It was all  
my fault! I killed my happiness  
with my own hands.

SHE

I understand. This is very  
difficult. Love cannot be  
recovered! You have to leave here,  
it is useless to sit here and cry.  
Let's go.

She takes him under his hand and they (THEIR BACK TO  
THE CAMERA) walk slowly along the street.

She turns around, looks directly at the camera, smiles  
suddenly and her vampire fangs are visible.

*If a man's destiny is to marry a "witch", he will do it  
anyway and nothing can stop him!*

FADE OUT: