

RESERVED

Written by

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FADE IN:

1 INT. LIBRARY - LOBBY - MORNING 1

MARY ANN (24) cuts herself out of a picture, but her arm, with her gold bracelet, is left around a greasy-haired jock in a letterman's jacket.

His picture gets pinned on a "Wanted" bulletin board above a sign - *Name: Kyle. Last Known Location: Beech St. Item Stolen: Pride and Prejudice.*

She takes the bracelet off and holds it above a trash can, but sighs and puts it back on.

CUT TO:

2 INT. LIBRARY - MARY ANN'S DESK - CONTINUOUS 2

Mary Ann tears a page off her Word of the Day calendar as she sits down at her desk - today is May 1st. She tucks the half-picture of herself beneath the calendar.

PATRON 1 approaches her desk, absent-mindedly thumbing the pages of the book he drops in front of her. She cringes as pages bend.

MARY ANN

Hello and welcome to Bennington  
Public Library. May I see your  
library card?

Patron 1 hands her his library card.

HARD CUT TO:

PATRON 2 hands her library card over in two pieces.

HARD CUT TO:

PATRON 3 slides his library card across her desk.

HARD CUT TO:

PATRON 4 searches her purse for her library card.

HARD CUT TO:

Patron 2 chews her bubble gum obnoxiously. Mary Ann turns from the computer to the Patron 2.

MARY ANN

It appears you don't have any  
overdue fees. Good.

(beat)

Now, I regret I have to be the one  
to inform you of this...

HARD CUT TO:

The books fall out of PATRON 3's arms onto Mary Ann's desk.  
He grins as he puts them in a pile.

MARY ANN (cont'd)

But a new policy, taking effect  
immediately, prevents library books  
from leaving the property.

HARD CUT TO:

Patron 4 empties her purse onto Mary Ann's desk, looking for  
her library card.

PATRON 4

But -

MARY ANN

Before you say anything, I  
understand your uneasiness with  
this new policy, but I believe if  
you consider the mistreatment  
library books experience...

She nods toward the bulletin board.

HARD CUT TO:

Patron 2 folds her chewed gum into the wrapper of the new  
piece she puts in her mouth.

MARY ANN (cont'd)

You will see that this policy  
ensures the safety and longevity of  
our reading materials.

PATRON 2

But -

HARD CUT TO:

Patron 1 continues to accidentally earmark the first 100  
pages of the book.

MARY ANN

You are, however, more than welcome  
to enjoy...

She takes a look at the book in his hand and covers a laugh  
with a cough.

MARY ANN (cont'd)

Twilight in any of our designated  
reading areas.

HARD CUT TO:

Patron 4 repacks her purse.

MARY ANN

I apologize for any inconvenience  
this may cause and hope you will  
continue to take advantage of the  
many resources we have at our  
library.

HARD CUT TO:

PATRON 5 leans over Mary Ann's desk, flashing his "seductive"  
smile her way. She sighs.

MARY ANN (cont'd)

Hello. I regret I have to be the  
one to inform you of this...

FADE TO:

3 INT. LIBRARY - MARY ANN'S DESK - LATER

3

PATRON 6 stands at Mary Ann's desk, looking toward the  
bulletin board.

MARY ANN

So, we made a display to show that  
theft would not be tolerated.  
Preventing it enables us to better  
serve our honest patrons.

He places the book in his hand on her desk, nodding in  
agreement.

MARY ANN (cont'd)  
 Yeah, about that. I feel like now  
 would be a good time to explain a  
 new policy that has been  
 implemented...

FADE TO:

4

INT. LIBRARY - MARY ANN'S DESK - LATER

4

As Mary Ann types on her computer, NATHAN (26), enters with a cup of coffee. She tenses as he stops in front of her desk, smiling.

NATHAN  
 Afternoon, Mary Ann. You look good  
 today.

MARY ANN  
 Hello, Nathan.

NATHAN  
 I have a few books on reserve.  
 Figured I'd pick them up.

He slides his library card across her desk. She picks it up, not looking at him.

MARY ANN  
 (quietly)  
 I can't do that.

NATHAN  
 I'm sorry?

Mary Ann clears her throat, looking back to him.

MARY ANN  
 I can't do that.

NATHAN  
 But -

MARY ANN  
 I - we have to be certain the books  
 are treated properly, so they have  
 to stay inside the library.

NATHAN  
 But isn't checking out books kind  
 of what you do here?

Her voice gets stronger.

MARY ANN

No, we provide reading materials to interested patrons. How can we continue this service if our books are ruined or stolen?

NATHAN

But what about the patrons who don't destroy books? You can check my record. I'm clean.

MARY ANN

Unfortunate collateral damage, I guess. Sorry.

She straightens up, more confident.

MARY ANN

Now, is there anything else I can help you with?

NATHAN

I guess not.

He shuffles out as PATRON 6 approaches Mary Ann's desk.

MARY ANN

(to Patron 6)

Hello. I regret I have to be the one to inform you of this...

FADE TO:

5 INT. LIBRARY - MARY ANN'S DESK - THE NEXT DAY

5

Another page off the calendar - May 2nd.

Nathan comes back, sipping his coffee. He smiles as he walks past Mary Ann's desk to the bookshelves. Her eyes follow him.

A YOUNG PATRON peeks over the front of her desk. He sets Green Eggs and Ham down and holds out his library card.

MARY ANN

(not looking at him)

I'm sorry, sir, but new policy states that books are not to leave the premises. Please place your book on the cart to be reshelved when you are finished.

The young patron walks away sadly as Nathan walks up.

NATHAN

Just these two, please.

He places Wuthering Heights and Anna Karenina on her desk. She raises an eyebrow.

MARY ANN

This is what you read?

NATHAN

I like a good love story now and then.

He smiles widely. She brushes her hair behind her ear and takes the books.

NATHAN

I was hoping I could convince you to

(beat)

Rethink the new policy. For me.

She looks at the books, then back up at him.

MARY ANN

I can't do that.

As she pushes the books back across the desk, her bracelet falls off. He picks it up.

NATHAN

This is beautiful.

She stands up and takes it back from him.

MARY ANN

A

(beat)

Friend bought it for me.

She sits down and puts the bracelet back on her wrist, staring at it.

NATHAN

I've seen you with him. What's his name?

(beat)

Kyle? Kyle doesn't make you happy, gold bracelet or not.

MARY ANN

Especially not since Kyle broke up with me.

Nathan pauses, surprised.

NATHAN

I'm sorry.

MARY ANN

No, I'm sorry. I have a lot of other patrons to help.

Nathan looks behind him. There's no line.

NATHAN

Who?

MARY ANN

I

(beat)

Have to reshelve these books.

She picks the books up from her desk and hurries off. Nathan shakes his head and leaves.

FADE TO:

6 INT. LIBRARY - MARY ANN'S DESK - THE NEXT DAY

6

May 3rd.

Nathan leans over Mary Ann's desk with two cups of coffee.

NATHAN

I got you this. I wasn't sure how you took your coffee, so it's black.

He hands her a cup. She inhales the aroma, then drops it into the trash can with a slight smile.

NATHAN

Really? Just like that?

MARY ANN

I like cream and sugar.

NATHAN

I can still get you -

MARY ANN

Is there anything else I can help you with?

Nathan walks away with a sigh.

FADE TO:

7 INT. LIBRARY - MARY ANN'S DESK - THE NEXT DAY 7

May 4th.

Nathan pops up over Mary Ann's computer screen, but she doesn't look up. He puts Jane Eyre, Gone with the Wind, and Phantom of the Opera on her desk and sips his coffee.

MARY ANN  
Not gonna happen.

NATHAN  
I thought you might feel that way.

He pulls a pen and a piece of paper out of his shirt pocket.

NATHAN  
But maybe this will change your  
mind.

He writes on the piece of paper and slides it to her, making her eyes get big.

NATHAN  
Let me check out just one of these  
books, and I will donate this much  
in cash, right now, to the library.

MARY ANN  
No, thank you.

NATHAN  
Okay, good. All I really have in my  
wallet is my library card and a \$30  
gift card to The Olive Garden.

She smiles.

NATHAN  
Neither of which I've had any use  
for lately.

She fights off a bigger smile as she drops his note in the garbage.

NATHAN  
Leave now? Okay.

On his way out, he sees the bulletin board and scans the picture of Kyle. He hurries out.

Mary Ann pulls Nathan's note out of the trash and puts it in her desk drawer.

FADE TO:

8 INT. LIBRARY - MARY ANN'S DESK - THE NEXT DAY 8

Word of the Day calendar - May 5th.

Nathan puts a book in the drop box, looking at Mary Ann - *she doesn't see him*. He passes her desk and sits in a chair, sipping his coffee.

FADE TO:

9 INT. LIBRARY - LOBBY - LATER 9

Nathan fidgets anxiously, looking Mary Ann's way. He finishes his large coffee and runs off to the bathroom.

FADE TO:

10 INT. LIBRARY - LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER 10

Nathan returns and immediately looks at the book return box - *it's empty*. He excitedly looks back to Mary Ann.

MARY ANN  
(to PATRON 7)  
I'm sorry, ma'am, but new library  
policy dictates that all books  
remain inside of the library.

He sighs and his shoulders slump as he walks out of the library. Behind him, LIBRARIAN 1 holds up the book he dropped off, looking for the call number.

FADE TO:

11 INT. LIBRARY - MARY ANN'S DESK - AN HOUR LATER 11

PATRON 8 files away from Mary Ann's desk. She frowns toward where Nathan was seated - *he's not there*.

She finds an envelope labeled IMPORTANT. Inside is a letter from her boss with the date and time of a meeting regarding the unusually low number of loans in the past week.

Mary Ann doesn't look up from the note when Librarian 1 drops off a book wrapped in a note that says "NEEDS CALL NUMBER."

FADE TO:

12 INT. LIBRARY - MARY ANN'S DESK - THE NEXT MORNING 12

Mary Ann sits down at her desk. She picks up the note from her boss and places it in her desk.

As she turns to her computer, her eyes catch on the book that needs numbering. She unwraps it from the note and almost drops it when she sees the title - Pride and Prejudice.

A note falls out of the book. It reads "His feelings were not of a sort to be much distressed by the folly which he must have witnessed - Page 143."

She quickly pulls Nathan's note out from under her boss's note - *the handwriting is the same*. She gets up from her desk.

FADE TO:

13 INT. NATHAN'S APARTMENT - LATER 13

A knock at the door. Nathan sets his book down to answer it, dropping his sandwich when he sees Mary Ann. He leans against the door, keeping it mostly closed.

NATHAN

What's up?

MARY ANN

(holding up Pride and Prejudice)

What's this?

He lowers his head, blushing.

NATHAN

I bought it. For the library.

(beat)

For you.

They're both silent for a moment.

NATHAN (cont'd)

Look, I just thought that if I got you -

He looks up to see her arms full of books. *She's not wearing the bracelet anymore.*

MARY ANN

They're the books you wanted. And I  
threw in a few I recommend.

She looks down at the books, then back at him.

MARY ANN (cont'd)

We all like a good love story now  
and then.

Nathan opens the door all the way, motioning her inside.

NATHAN

You know, the library has this new  
policy. They don't really like you  
to take the books out...

FADE TO BLACK.