

Lord Friend Zone

written by

Jim Fagan

james.fagan.iii@gmail.com
516-662-9924

COLD OPEN

EXT. CONEY ISLAND SEA LION PARK, GATE - DAY

A sign reads:

Welcome to Coney Island Sea Lion Park!

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

10 AM, Otter Feeding: Otter Tank

11 AM, Seal Feeding: Seal Tank

12 pm, **Trainer Wedding!** Sea Lion Tank

1pm, Human Feeding: Food Court

EXT. SEA LION TANK - CONTINUOUS

STACEY, the bride, and PAUL, the groom, wear official trainer wetsuits, a flattering look on them.

They're less flattering on WHEATON, the man-maid of honor, who grins maniacally without blinking and dabs his eyes.

WHEATON'S P.O.V. - STACEY

TIME LAPSE

--Bluhry at first. Stacey's face lights up. The sun's sparkling on the water, haloing Stacey like an angel.

--Wheaton's eyes follow down to her hand and a small engagement ring, which takes Paul's hand and squeezes.

BACK TO SCENE

JAVERNE presides over the wedding with a grin that hints of true, blissful cluelessness.

JAVERNE

When Stacey and Paul ask'd me to officiate their weddin', I thought, that's just 'cause they want me lookin' the other way on my "no datin' at work" policy. But they found the loophole. Love.

The crows coos. Wheaton shifts awkwardly in his swim fins.

JAVERNE (CONT'D)

Lucky for Stacey, its the same loophole for anyone bein' deported! Just joshin' INS inspector Edwards, this is legit.

Everyone laughs. INS INSPECTOR EDWARDS gives a big thumbs up.

JAVERNE (CONT'D)
So, with that in mind, who thinks
these two shouldn't be hitched?

Wheaton sees his brother-in-law, ANTHONY, who's in the crowd shaking his head and mouthing "NO!" Wheaton shoos him away, takes a deep breath, and flops forward in his swim fins.

WHEATON
Stacey, I-

ANTHONY shields himself from having to watch using one of his two 2-year-old twin girls.

JAVERNE
Ooooo! Looks like somebody's come
to steal you from the altar Stacey!

The crowd laughs. Stacey is in shock. Wheaton is mortified.

WHEATON
I... I...

But Stacey is looking right through him. He turns to see a sea lion wearing a bow tie flopping down the aisle.

JAVERNE
Ladies and gents, please welcome
Coney Island Sea Lion Park's very
own, Boyton Jr.!

EXT. OCEANSIDE CLIFF - MOMENTS LATER

Boyton Jr. has replaced Wheaton as maid of honor.

JAVERNE (CONT'D)
I now pronounce you man and legally
allowed to stay in this country!
What Poseidon has joined, let no
man try to separate!

BOYTON JR.
(Barks)

JAVERNE
You said it Boyton Jr.!

Stacey and Paul kiss. Wheaton dies a thousand deaths.
Everyone cheers.

SMASH TO TITLES: LORD FRIEND ZONE

ACT ONE

INT. BOBBI AND WHEATON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Wheaton is pacing. His roommate, BOBBI, casually watches. She's seen this before.

BOBBI

Explain it to me like I'm the idiot who came up with the idea.

WHEATON

Stacey was going to be sent back to London at the end of her work visa.

BOBBI

So you suggest a Green Card marriage.

WHEATON

Yes.

BOBBI

And then she asks the seal rider.

WHEATON

"Paul the seal surfer." I don't know maybe she didn't want to screw up what we have, so, so... so she married someone else?

BOBBI

I don't know Wheaton. They look happy in this picture.

Reveal: a photo of Stacey and Paul in an aquarium souvenir frame.

WHEATON

That's a show for the INS guy.

Reveal: a photo of Wheaton, Boyton Jr. And INS INSPECTOR Edwards in an aquarium souvenir frame.

BOBBI

I think you should let it go.

WHEATON

That's why you do this small thing for me.

BOBBI

Marry you!?

WHEATON

Yes, Bobbi, marry me. Do a guy a favor. Jesus, I'm trying to make her jealous. Unless you think just dating will work?

BOBBI

I'm not dating you Wheaton you're like my brother.

WHEATON

Women are always saying that to me.

BOBBI

We love our brothers.

(a beat. Then.)

Look, if it's just for show, like you say it is, just wait it out. Six months or however long for the government to buy it, and then, boom, you're in.

WHEATON

You think so?

CUT TO:

WHEATON'S P.O.V. - STACEY

INT. TRAINER PREP AREA - DAY

Stacey is ripping the guts out of one fish after another.

STACEY

I know how it sounds, "I really might like my husband," but he's just unbelievable Wheaton. He's so... wow. And he looks so... wow. And it's all thanks to your idea! You really are my best friend, Wheaton.

She rips out the guts of a big fish.

STACEY (CONT'D)

It's super gross how their heart explodes when you rip the guts out!
(a beat. Then)
You ok?

INT. TRAINER PREP AREA - CONTINUOUS

Wheaton is petting his fish, not gutting it. He has a zombified look on his face.

ANTHONY (PRE LAP)
Reign it in!

EXT. SEA TURTLE TANK - DAY.

Anthony has one of his twin girls, Christina tucked tightly under one arm. The other, Emma is running around screaming.

ANTHONY
Why should one girl matter so much?
(to Emma)
I said Reign it in!

WHEATON
Every girl I love ends up becoming
my best friend.

ANTHONY
I think you freak them out. You're
too intense. "Love." "Best friend."

WHEATON
I can't stop who I am.

ANTHONY
Nobody would get laid ever if they
didn't stop who they were a little.

Christina starts kicking Wheaton, while Emma starts yelling at the turtles.

EMMA
TURTLES! TURTLES! TURTLES!

ANTHONY
You need some men in your life.

WHEATON
That's your solution to everything.

ANTHONY
Ain't it ever.
(a beat. Then)
Seriously, you need some male
friends. And me and your brother
don't count. You need friends
you're not constantly thinking
about laying. It's why I have you.
(MORE)

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Get out from this fog of women
you're in.

Wheaton thinks about this. Emma bites his leg.

LESLIE (PRE LAP)
Oh for pete's sake. I'll have sex
with you.

INT. SAND BAR - NIGHT

Wheaton, Bobbi, and LESLIE are at their usual spot. Leslie is Bobbi and Wheaton's best friend from college.

WHEATON
Don't make fun of me.

LESLIE
I'm not, lets get it over with.

WHEATON
You're serious?

BOBBI
Leslie, lets get another round.

LESLIE
Good idea, this is going to require
getting really drunk.

Bobbi grabs Leslie's arm and drags her away. Wheaton looks around trying to figure out what just happened.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

Bobbi has Leslie alone.

BOBBI
Are you out of your mind?

ROCKAWAY ROD (O.C.)
("Da Ya Think I'm Sexy")
HE'S ACTING SHY/ LOOKIN' FOR AN
ANSWER--

Reveal: ROCKAWAY ROD, a local who sounds so much like Rod Stewart, he might actually be Rod Stewart (seriously, in an ideal world, he's played by Rod Stewart).

ROCKAWAY ROD (CONT'D)
COME ON HONEY/ LET'S SPEND THE
NIGHT TOGETHER--

LESLIE
Wheaton and I have had sex before.

ROCKAWAY ROD
HOLD ON A MINUTE/ BEFORE WE GO MUCH
FURTHER--

BOBBI
Yah. In college. And you remember
what happened?

ROCKAWAY ROD
GIMME A DIME/ SO I CAN PHONE MY
MOTHER--

LESLIE
He wrote a lot of poetry I remember
that.

ROCKAWAY ROD
IF YOU WANT MY BODY!

BOBBI
Rockaway Rod, not now!

Rockaway Rod saunters off, still humming and rubbing himself
down.

BOBBI (CONT'D)
I remember that he told me he was
in love with you. Then you made me
drill it into his head that you
were just friends. And then he
cried.

LESLIE
So now he knows the deal. Good job.

Wheaton pops up behind them.

WHEATON
Was sex with me bad?

BOBBI
Wheaton!

LESLIE
Well, you never took your shirt
off.

BOBBI
Leslie!

WHEATON

No no, it's ok. I need to hear this.

Bobbi drags Leslie away by the arm. A girl, KATE, is eying Wheaton.

KATE

What's with the shirt thing?

WHEATON

It's this genetic thing. My stomach looks like it's frowning.

ELIAS, the old, greek bartender, takes him in.

ELIAS

I pay two dollar to see this stomach.

WHEATON

Free beer.

ELIAS

Deal.

Wheaton shows his stomach. Kate makes a grossed out face.

INT. SAND BAR - CONTINUOUS

LESLIE

Stop dragging me places by the arm!

BOBBI

He's in a fragile place!

LESLIE

Fine, you bone him if you're so worried about him.

BOBBI

Best friends don't just have sex. This isn't NBC in the '90s.

LESLIE

Bobbi, sex is no big deal. Let it go. That's what Frozen was about.

BOBBI

This is NOT what Frozen was about!

Leslie is distracted by something behind Bobbi.

LESLIE
Well I'll be damned.

Leslie nudges Bobbi back toward Wheaton, who is talking with KATE.

KATE
So are you like, some kind of oceanographer?

WHEATON
No, I'm afraid of boats. Sinking. That kind of thing.

Leslie and Bobbi hide behind a column.

LESLIE
(to Bobbi)
WINGMAN!

BOBBI
That is what I'm talking about. Ok, lets get Wheaton laid.

MONTAGE

Rockaway Rod has jumped up on stage and is singing "If you think I'm sexy" with the band.

1. Leslie buys a round of shots for Wheaton and Kate.
2. They get a bonfire going on the beach and dance around it.
3. Kate and Wheaton are laughing and looking romantic, but Bobbi breaks it up with a round of Tacos. She and Leslie high five.
4. More shots. Wheaton does a strip tease, shirt on.
5. Wheaton, Leslie and Bobbi rip up their "usual" picnic table from the bar and toss it into the fire pit.

EXT. CONEY ISLAND BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

The bon-fire is raging. Wheaton sits over by Kate.

WHEATON
You're like, really cool, you know that?

KATE
Yeah man, you too. You have such amazing friends.
(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

I'm sort of new to the area so I don't know anyone yet.

WHEATON

Well, I'm happy to show you around.

KATE

That's great! We're going to be like, best friends!

WHEATON

Um... yah. Yay!

KATE

Yay!

A crowd has gathered, shouting "Stuntman! Stuntman!"

LESLIE

Mexican Stuntman!

Leslie dives on top of Wheaton, does a shot of tequila, snorts a line of salt off of a surfer's abs, and squeezes a lime into Wheaton's eyes, temporarily blinding him. He blinks at Leslie in the haze.

WHEATON'S P.O.V. - LESLIE

TIME LAPSE

--She's blurry, then sharpening, gorgeous, and terrifying, her hair whipping like crazy with the ocean breeze. She's haloed by the fire pit, which is roaring on the beach, making her look like a devilish seductress.

BACK TO SCENE

Leslie tears open her shirt and beats her chest like Tarzan.

LESLIE (CONT'D)

Tonight we never die!

She makes out with Wheaton, who wipes pulp from his eyes.

WHEATON

Wowza.

CUT TO:

INT. BOBBI AND WHEATON'S APARTMENT - LATER

Wheaton and Leslie crash into his bedroom making out and removing clothing.

Bobbi comes crashing in from the other room.

BOBBI
No, no, no, no, NO!

She squeezes herself between them. They keep trying to kiss.

BOBBI (CONT'D)
I can't let you two do this.

Bobbi sprays them with febreze to break them up.

LESLIE
(seductively)
Your room smells like linens.

WHEATON
Come and get it.

Bobbi puts herself between them.

BOBBI
Stop it you two. This will ruin our
friendship!

LESLIE
You told me to have sex with him.

BOBBI
No! we were supposed to be wingman.

LESLIE
Really that's what we said? Ok,
that's cool too. Where'd that girl
get to?

She checks behind the door.

LESLIE (CONT'D)
Yo lady!

BOBBI
She's back at the beach. She sort
of gave you some space when you
started to hump Wheaton in public.

LESLIE
Ok, right on...

WHEATON
Forget about her. I love you.

The room freezes like a record scratch.

LESLIE
Whoa. What?

BOBBI
Wheaton, no.

WHEATON
Don't fight it!

Wheaton goes in for the kiss as Leslie takes the bottle of fabreeze and sprays him in the eyes. He screams in pain. He recoils, but quickly recovers.

WHEATON (CONT'D)
I don't need eyes to see!

Wheaton goes to kiss Leslie and lands one on Bobbi. They kiss, which turns into a deeper kiss. Wheaton breaks away.

WHEATON'S P.O.V. - BOBBI

TIME LAPSE

--Bobbi is blurry at first. When she sharpens, she appears stunned, looking at Wheaton, her mouth in a surprised O. Wheaton's fishtank is lit up behind her, haloing her like the queen of the ocean.

BACK TO SCENE

WHEATON (CONT'D)
Bobbi, I...

BOBBI
(realizing)
EW!!!!

Bobbi sprays her own mouth with Fabreeze.

ACT TWOWHEATON'S P.O.V. - LESLIE

Wheaton's eyes open to reveal Leslie hovering overhead. She is removing her clothes over the following:

LESLIE

I call bullshit. You talk about that girl all day, then you take me home, then you ovulate over Bobbi. You're full of shit, Wheaton. And you freaking know it. Now take off your clothes.

INT. BOBBI AND WHEATON'S APARTMENT - DAY

The sun is rising into the living room. Wheaton groggily sits up on the couch to face Leslie.

WHEATON

Huh?

LESLIE

I'm going to prove to you once and for all that you're not in love. At all. You're just a horny loser.

WHEATON

But what if I do love you?

LESLIE

Then you're a love addict. And I'm going to be your sponsor.

Her bra drops off. Wheaton pauses, then tries to pull off all his clothes at once. His shirt gets stuck on his head.

WHEATON'S P.O.V. - INSIDE OF HIS SHIRT

We hear Wheaton struggling. The door opens.

LESLIE (V.O.)

Shnikees.

BOBBI (V.O.)

What the hell?

LESLIE (V.O.)

I have it under control Bobbi.

BOBBI (V.O.)
Get out of here. Now.

LESLIE (V.O.)
You are unbelievable.

BACK TO SCENE.

The door slams. Wheaton pulls his head out of his shirt. Bobbi stands there, very angry.

WHEATON
Hey there Bobbi!

BOBBI
We are going for a run.

WHEATON
Oh please no.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROCKAWAY BEACH BOARDWALK - DAY

Wheaton and Bobbi are jogging along the boardwalk. The New York City skyline behind them. Wheaton looks like he's dying.

WHEATON
I don't think I should be running.
I don't think I'm built for it.

Bobbi stops running and looks at him.

BOBBI
Your nipples are sweating a lot.

WHEATON
I'm afraid they might chafe off!

Bobbi twists at his nipples. Wheaton writhes in pain.

WHEATON (CONT'D)
Ow! This is why your patients say
you have empathy problems.

BOBBI
Keep. Up.

She runs on. He follows. A silent moment. Then:

WHEATON
You ever hear of love addiction?

BOBBI

Wheaton, you're not a love addict.
If anything you just have latent
narcissism that makes you think all
women should be in love with you.

Wheaton gasping for air stops again. Bobbi drags him along.

WHEATON

What if I'm in love with Stacey and
Leslie and you?

BOBBI

Lets assume for a moment I believed
that you loved me, or Leslie,
which, again, I do not believe. I
would tell you that we're family.
And you know how it's super super
gross for family to have sex?

(she softens)

I'll talk to Leslie, but you have
to stop this self pity stuff.

She realizes she's running alone. Wheaton is sitting down 20
yards back, dry heaving.

BOBBI (CONT'D)

God damn it Wheaton, you are
KILLING my mile time!

DR. TRISH (PRE-LAP)

Empathy is crucial to our work.

INT. THERAPISTS COLLEGE - DAY

Dr. Trish is leading Bobbi down the hall.

DR. TRISH (CONT.)

You need to take this evaluation
seriously, Roberta.

BOBBI

It's Bobbi.

DR. TRISH

That must have been very hard for
you when I messed up your name.

BOBBI

I guess so. Look, Dr. Trish, trust
me, this is important to me.

DR. TRISH

I'm sure you'll shine. Your session will be recorded so we can judge you later. This one is a walk-in, and in a fragile state. It should be a good test for you.

Dr. Trish opens the door. Leslie is inside, staring her down.

BOBBI

You gotta be freaking kidding me.

INT. CONEY ISLAND AQUARIUM, MEN'S LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Wheaton has just changed into his wetsuit. It shows curves in all the wrong places. Paul enters, ass-naked. It's a good look for him.

PAUL

Hey there Wheaton.

WHEATON

Whoa. Paul. Can you, penis... please--

PAUL

Dude. It's a locker room. It's weird not to be naked.

But Paul begrudgingly wraps a towel around his waste.

WHEATON

It was, um, good of you to help out Stacey with that Green Card stuff.

PAUL

Help her out? It's the best thing that's ever happened to me.

WHEATON

Wow. Wow really?

PAUL

Hecks yeah. I thought my piece was gonna fall off last night.

Wheaton takes this in and gets a bit light headed.

CUT TO:

WHEATON'S P.O.V. - PAUL

--Paul flexes his pectorals back and forth.

PAUL (CONT'D)

At first, I was worried it would be weird, but Stace is the coolest. Dude! Don't think I don't know. She never woulda had this idea if it weren't for you. Sex for days!

CUT BACK:

Wheaton unzips his wet suit, grabbing at his throat.

WHEATON

It's so super hot in here.

PAUL

I know right. Hey look, maybe since you did me such a huge favor, you can do me another favor. I need a night to go out with my guys. They're all like, "Whoa man. You're married."

WHEATON

I guess it's all very sudden.

PAUL

But I don't want to ditch Stace. So, maybe you can ask her to hang out?

WHEATON

Like a date?

PAUL

Nah, like a movie or dinner, maybe pay for it so she feels like she's worth it. Just warm her up for me. Thanks man. I owe you.

Paul drops the towel and gives Wheaton a big naked hug.

INT. TURTLE TANK - DAY

Wheaton is in his wetsuit at the turtle tank. Anthony is trying a new method, having both Emma and Christina on leashes.

ANTHONY

And now you're in love with Paul.

WHEATON

Be serious.

ANTHONY
I am serious.

Emma is pulling gum off the ground. Anthony tugs the leash.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
No!

WHEATON
Gimme one of those.

He takes Emma's leash from Anthony and pulls her over gently.

WHEATON (CONT'D)
Hey Emma. Know why I love it here
at the aquarium?

EMMA
Because you live here?

WHEATON
No. I live-- no.

ANTHONY
Because that wet suit covers your
frown face stomach?

WHEATON
No.

CHRISTINA
Because you love the fish?

WHEATON
That's right. And they don't mind I
love them.

CHRISTINA
I love you uncle Wheaton.

WHEATON
I love you too.
(a hug. Then.)
You guys wanna see a seal show?

CHRISTINA
Yeah!

EMMA
I found a turtle!

Emma holds up a small turtle.

WHEATON

Holy hell! How did you get that?!

Wheaton hurriedly takes it and plops it back in the tank.

INT. THERAPY ROOM - DAY

The room is so tranquil it's creepy, like a funeral home. There are photos of sailboats everywhere.

LESLIE

I like all your sailboats.

BOBBI

Why are you here?

LESLIE

My best friend is a control freak.

Bobbi mouths "I'm going to kill you."

BOBBI

OK. Well. That's a predicament.

LESLIE

Maybe she feels she's got no control over her own life so she has to manipulate others.

BOBBI

I'm sure that's not true.

LESLIE

You think?

BOBBI

No, I'm certain.

LESLIE

Maybe though.

BOBBI

Nope.

(Regaining composure)

But I understand you are having emotions. Lets talk. Why don't you say out loud what you did that caused your friend to help you.

LESLIE

She probably sees it as helping, but I see it as a cry for help.

(MORE)

LESLIE (CONT'D)

See, my friend, at my friend's house, interrupted my efforts to help my friend, my other friend, because her version of helping that friend isn't the same as mine. But really she just screwed things up even worse. Because that's what she's like. She's a controlling little monster.

BOBBI

You know what, Leslie. You were being gross. It was gross. And reckless! And insulting to me and our friendship!

LESLIE

I hate your stupid sailboats!

CUT TO:

EXT. CONEY ISLAND SEA LION PARK - DAY

Wheaton and Stacey are performing in the Sea Lion show. The sea lions jump, splash, play. The crowd applauds.

Paul enters. He mounts a pair of sea lions as if they're water skis, cruising around the tank with grace. The crowd cheers.

WHEATON

WOW LOOK AT 'EM GO! SOMETHING GOING ON BETWEEN THOSE TWO IF YOU ASK ME!

INT. BACKSTAGE SEA LION PARK - MOMENTS LATER

Wheaton and Stacey get a big bucket of fish.

WHEATON

Um. Make sure you get enough to cover the um, the--

STACEY

The dismounting zone, I know. Paul talks about riding sea lions a ton. I'm becoming an expert.

WHEATON

He really loves his work.

They walk the bucket of fish towards the catwalk in the middle of the tank.

Paul is still cruising around on the Sea Lion, but Wheaton imagines Paul making out with Stacey as they ride around the tank.

STACEY

You ok Wheaton?

WHEATON

What? Yeah.

(a beat. Then)

I um, I ran into your husband in the locker room. He's very happy.

STACEY

Really? What did he say?

(A beat. Then.)

I feel so stupid, not knowing if the guy I married likes me.

WHEATON

Well. The whole thing is sort of unique.

STACEY

But it's been kind of magical you know?

WHEATON

We should, um, all celebrate. We haven't really gotten to do that yet.

(a beat. Then)

Other than the wedding. Are you busy tonight?

STACEY

Paul is. He's got some thing.

WHEATON

Oh. Right.

They spread out the fish on the dismounting zone.

STACEY

But I'm not. It could be cool.

WHEATON

Really?

PAUL (O.C.)

GET OUT OF THE WAY!

They turn to see Paul is sailing towards them.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Clear the dismounting zone!

WHEATON
We're in his dismounting zone!

PAUL
You're in my freaking dismounting zone!

STACEY
Oh God!

Wheaton shoves Stacey into the water. Paul leaps off his seal as it slides through the dismounting zone, spear tackling Wheaton into the water.

STACEY (CONT'D)
Wheaton!

Anthony, in the stands, buries his head in his hands. Paul dives into the water to save Stacey.

STACEY (CONT'D)
I'm fine Paul, get Wheaton.

PAUL
He's fine.

Wheaton is being dragged to safety by Boyton Jr., the sea lion. The crowd goes wild. Anthony stands and applauds.

CUT TO:

INT. JAVERNE'S OFFICE - DAY

Javerne is pouting furiously at Wheaton and Stacey. A massive poster for BLACKFISH hangs behind him.

JAVERNE
I need you two on your a-game durin' the animal shows. Today, you get knocked in the water. Tomorrow, a child could be eaten.

STACEY
It's my fault.

WHEATON
No, it's my fault, I was talking.

STACEY
I was distracting you.

WHEATON
You were just helping.

JAVERNE
Look it's obvious what this is.

WHEATON
It is?

JAVERNE
Sure. You're best friends. She gets married. Over time you drift apart.

WHEATON
The wedding was two days ago.

JAVERNE
And now look at you. At each other's throats.

STACEY
He's right Wheaton.

WHEATONN
No, no, I just--

STACEY
(overly dramatic)
You were my maid of honor. Where's your honor now?

Wheaton takes a moment, then catches on:

WHEATON
Oh... oh you own this country now, flashin' your green card in everyone's face.

STACEY
Well I guess we know where we stand.

WHEATON
I guess so.

JAVERNE
Now you two don't have to be friends, but you have to be co-workers. So hug.

WHEATON
Hug? That's not necessary.

STACEY

I don't like you. But damn it I respect you. Bring her here.

She gives him a big hug.

JAVERNE

There it is. Take in each other's scent. That's how you'll know you're both human.

Off of Wheaton's heart shattering into a million pieces:

CUT TO:

EXT. DR. TRISH'S OFFICE - LATER

Dr. Trish is sitting across from Bobbi, sternly eyeing her. They're listening to the recording of today's session. Both women on the tape are crying hysterically.

BOBBI (V.O.)BOBBI (V.O.)

I just do it cause I love you!

LESLIE (V.O.)

I love you too! But you're driving me freaking looney toons!

Dr. Trish stops the tape.

DR. TRISH

Love.

BOBBI

Dr. Trish I can explain.

DR. TRISH

I think it's obvious.

BOBBI

I know, but--

DR. TRISH

Getting to a place of such intense emotions with a stranger, and so quickly. Roberta, your empathy was off the charts.

BOBBI

It. It uh. Yes... um, yeah.

DR. TRISH

And I think I know why.

BOBBI

Go on.

DR. TRISH

Roberta. Have you ever heard of the term "love addiction?"

BOBBI

Why?

DR. TRISH

It's not yet recognized by the American Psychiatric Association, but neither was Schizophrenia.

BOBBI

Look, Dr. Trish I appreciate that, but the truth is, she's my best friend.

DR. TRISH

You may think that, but you've just met her. Your delusion is running deep. You need to learn to love yourself, not your patients. I see now that you can't be blamed for your empathy anemia. I believe it was a barrier brought on by your yet unrecognized disease, which I plan on exposing.

BOBBI

It's not love addiction. Frankly, leaping to that kind of diagnosis is sort of reckless, don't you think?

DR. TRISH

Well. If love addiction is not the cause, that puts your actions this afternoon in a much more unprofessional, confusing and potentially unforgivable light.

BOBBI

(a beat. Then.)

I need help Dr. Trish.

DR. TRISH

I know. I know you do. If it makes you feel any better, I know how it feels to love a patient.

(she leans in)

How do you think I met Mr. Trish?

BOBBI
Trish is your last name?

CUT TO:

EXT. CONEY ISLAND BEACH - DUSK

A sunset behind Wheaton and Stacey's heads, their hair blowing in the wind. Stacey looks really nervous.

STACEY
I can't believe we're going to do this.

WHEATON
I just can't believe you were here all summer and we haven't done it yet.

They look like they're going to kiss. Instead, they scream. Wheaton throws his hands up and Stacey does the same.

REVEAL:

EXT. CONEY ISLAND CYCLONE ROLLER COASTER - CONTINUOUS

They fly down the track, screaming and getting slammed around from side to side as the old roller coaster shakes at the seams.

STACEY
It feels like it might fall apart at any moment!

WHEATON
I know! Isn't it awesome!

A PHOTO:

A snap shot of thrilled riders on the Cyclone in a special "Ride the Cyclone" frame. Stacey hugs Wheaton tight. Wheaton is in heaven.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. CONEY ISLAND GAMES - NIGHT

Wheaton and Stacey walk, talk, and eat ice cream.

STACEY

This has been a lot of fun.

WHEATON

I've been in agony the whole time.

They laugh. Wheaton's is almost the laugh of a crazy person.

STACEY

Good thing Paul put you up to it.

WHEATON

What, Paul didn't. Paul's a dbag.
Psych! He's great! What do you
mean?

STACEY

I know you didn't have Paul in mind
when you suggested the Green Card
marriage.

WHEATON

Who else would I have in mind?

STACEY

Odds of a green card marriage
lasting forever are not great.

WHEATON

Don't say that. You two are, you're
really perfect for each other.

STACEY

I hope so. I really do. But in
reality, we just started dating. I
don't know what the future is with
Paul. But I really like him. So you
have to deal with that.

WHEATON

Yeah.

STACEY

But, I love you, Wheaton.

WHEATON

Whoa. Really?

STACEY

Yes. Like a brother. Your my best friend. And that's why I didn't ask you to be my green card husband. Because I don't want to hurt you and I didn't want to do something that could screw up our friendship. Do you understand?

WHEATON

Girlfriend, I get you. I have lots of close friends like that. Lots.

STACEY

Well, I don't. So, you're special to me.

They stop walking.

WHEATON

Crap.
(a beat. Then.)
OK, Come on.

CUT TO:

INT. SAND BAR - NIGHT

ELIAS, the bar owner, stops Bobbi as she storms in.

ELIAS

Oh no! You burn my table. You get out of here.

BOBBI

That wasn't me that was--

ELIAS

Both of you! Out!

Leslie has come in behind her.

LESLIE

It's an outdoor bar Elias. I'll just bring my own beer and listen to the music for free.

ELIAS

You both banned! One year!

Bobbi turns on Leslie.

BOBBI
You see! All you do is ruin lives.

LESLIE
Oh, you don't like people getting
involved in your personal shit?

Bobbi sees red. She tackles Leslie off the edge of the boardwalk. They roll down into the sand.

ELIAS
No amount of sexy lady wrestling
will save you now!

EXT. OUTSIDE THE SAND BAR - CONTINUOUS

Leslie and Bobbi are rolling in the sand. Rockaway Rod is singing HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THE RAIN.

ROCKAWAY ROD
THERE'S A CALM BEFORE THE STORM

BOBBI
You nearly ruined my life!

LESLIE
Good now we're even.

Leslie bites Bobbi hard on the arm. Bobbi shoves sand in her mouth. Leslie recoils, spitting.

ROCKAWAY ROD
I KNOW! IT'S BEEN COMIN FOR SOME
TIME!

BOBBI
I shoulda let you screw Wheaton.
You're great at screwing people.

LESLIE
(spitting)
You screw him! You're both complete
losers!

BOBBI
UGH! As if I could ever love you!

LESLIE
What?

BOBBI
Nothing. Never mind!

ROCKAWAY ROD
I WANNA KNOW! HAVE YOU EVER SEEN
THE RAIN?

WHEATON (O.C.)
Guess this is the new spot!

They look up. Wheaton is standing in the crowd that has gathered to watch the fight.

BOBBI
Hey champ!

Leslie punches Bobbi hard in the ass.

BOBBI (CONT'D)
OW!

ROCKAWAY ROD
I WANNA KNOW, HAVE YOU EVER SEEN
THE RAIN!

Wheaton jumps down onto the sand and stands in front of them.

WHEATON
What the what is going on here?

BOBBI
Nothing.

LESLIE
How much of that did you hear?

WHEATON
Hang on.
(to the crowd)
Show's over. Go back to your
drinks.

Nobody in the crowd moves.

WHEATON (CONT'D)
Fine.

Wheaton takes off his shirt to show them his stomach. Rockaway Rod grows silent. The crowd, slightly grossed out but also suddenly sadder, slinks away. Wheaton turns back to them.

WHEATON (CONT'D)
So. I'm a loser?

Bobbi is nursing her ass. Leslie is spitting sand.

LESLIE
Well. Kind of.

WHEATON
Great. Appologize.

LESLIE
I'm sorry Wheaton.

WHEATON
Not to me.

LESLIE
Oh. No way.

WHEATON
Apologize or my shirt stays off.

LESLIE
Fine. Sorry.

WHEATON
Bobbi?

BOBBI
I'm sorry I made you eat sand but
I'm not sorry for being pissed.

WHEATON
Can you settle this later? Frankly,
I need you both on your game
tonight.

Stacey comes over with some beers.

STACEY
Hey guys. I bought a round when
that Greek guy kicked Wheaton out.

WHEATON
Guys. This is Stacey. I was her
maid of honor.

STACEY
I've heard a lot about you guys.

LESLIE
Wheaton never mentions you!

BOBBI
It's really nice to meet you.

STACEY
Likewise.

WHEATON

Stacey is looking for a night out with the girls. And I told her I knew a couple of best friends.

Bobbi and Leslie glare at each other. Wheaton takes the three of them in.

WHEATON (CONT'D)

Well, I'll let them catch you up.

LESLIE

You're leaving?

WHEATON

Um, yeah. I gotta do something.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOUSE - DAY

Wheaton knocks on the door of a suburban Long Island home. MARC, his brother, comes to the door. Emma hugs his leg.

MARC

Little brother, to what do I owe this surprise.

WHEATON

Get dressed. You and Anthony are going out.

Anthony comes down the stairs with Christina in tow.

ANTHONY

We're going out?

WHEATON

Not me. I'm babysitting. Now go get dressed.

EXT. SAND BAR - NIGHT

Stacey, Leslie, and Bobbi are drinking in the sand. They don't really have anything to talk about.

LESLIE

So... what's it like to be married?

STACEY

It's not like anything really? I don't know, what do I know... I barely know the guy. Green card marriage.

BOBBI

Oh really? Weird... Wheaton didn't say, it seemed really... um,

LESLIE

Shut up. You're not committing a felony Bobbi.

BOBBI

Sort of an accessory though...

STACEY

You always picture your wedding. On the beach or in a church, or on a seaside cliff or in a park. Or maybe my parent's backyard. Not usually in a seal tank.

BOBBI

Where's Mr. Right tonight?

STACEY

He's having a sort of post wedding bachelor party.

LESLIE

Really?

CUT TO:

EXT. SAND BAR - MOMENTS LATER

LESLIE

Stuntman! Stuntman! Stuntman!

Stacey takes a shot, snorts salt, and squeezes the lime into her own eyes.

BOBBI

Holy heck!

LESLIE

I've never seen somebody solo-stuntman before!

STACEY

I am King of Witch Mountain!

Stacey looks bloodshot and gross.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAND BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Leslie, Stacey, and Bobbi are singing along with Rockaway Rod.

CUT TO:

EXT. SAND BAR - MOMENTS LATER

The three women are lying in the sand, toes in the water, looking up at the sky.

STACEY

You can't see any stars here.

BOBBI

Maybe it's cloudy.

LESLIE

There are no clouds at night.

BOBBI

There definitely are. It's just dark out.

LESLIE

Ugh. I'm still mad at you.

They both sit up.

BOBBI

Get over it. I was a jerk. You were a jerk. I still love you.

LESLIE

Well you're a love addict.

They smile and collapse back into the sand.

STACEY

You're lucky to have a best friend. My only friends are a seal, a green card husband, and Wheaton. And not in that order.

LESLIE

You have us now.

BOBBI

But what is us? What is any of us? This stuff of man is star dust.

STACEY

Wow.

LESLIE

I'm drunk.

INT. BOBBI AND WHEATON'S APARTMENT - LATER

Bobbi comes home. Wheaton is waiting. Bobbi is fall-down drunk.

BOBBI

Hey.

WHEATON

You have fun?

BOBBI

Yah. She's cool man. She's very cool.

WHEATON

Yah. Well you all are.

BOBBI

Where did you go, anyway?

WHEATON

Nowhere.

BOBBI

Remember that Kate girl?

WHEATON

Yeah. Blew that one.

BOBBI

Nope. Stacey went and asked her out tonight. For you.

WHEATON

What?

BOBBI

Yeah. You have a date tomorrow night. Goodnight.

She closes the door. Wheaton thinks a moment. Then he starts to dance: an awful rhythmless gyration.

WHEATON
(Singing)
I got a date tonight, I got a date
tonight...

Bobbi walks back in and sees him dancing.

BOBBI'S P.O.V. - WHEATON

TIME LAPSE

--Bluhry at first. When the picture sharpens, Wheaton is really gyrating. His gut is lopping out under his shirt.
--The fish tank he keeps in the room halos him, making him look angelic.

CUT BACK TO SCENE

WHEATON (CONT'D)
What? You wanna dance?

BOBBI
No. I just quit drinking. Just now.

She goes to bed. Wheaton shrugs. Then gyrates some more.

END OF EPISODE