



# *The Lemon Tree*

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**INT. TOM'S APARTMENT - MORNING.**

We PAN PAST - three picture frames on a side table, stock photos clearly still inside.

TOM (O.S.)  
And you go here, obviously. Okay,  
let's go Sally where is your nose?  
Sally, Sallyyy... Oh. Duh, left you  
over here.

Continuing to PAN - we notice a box for a 20lb weighted blanket, then on the couch a huge pile of unfolded laundry. Finally we find TOM sitting on the floor completing a jigsaw puzzle.

TOM  
And you go here, and you're for  
Harry. And I know exactly where you  
go, riiight here.

Tom (30s, glasses, naturally funny and warm but obviously an introvert) is in pajama pants and a t-shirt. He triumphantly places the last piece. We move past revealing a *When Harry Met Sally* jigsaw puzzle.

Now that it's finished, he scratches his chin briefly then deflates. *He's got nothing else to do.*

SUDDENLY his iPhone RINGS. The CONTACT reads RIAN. Tom scrunches up his face.

TOM (cont'd)  
Tsk. What...

He lets it ring a moment more, before finally answering.

TOM (cont'd)  
Uh hello? Uhhh, yeah, hey man... Uh  
huh. No, I know. It's been awhile.  
Coffee? Uh, maybe, when are you  
coming into town? You're here, like  
right now?

Waves of visible apprehension ripple through Tom.

TOM (cont'd)  
Um I kinda right in the middle of  
this thing though.

Tom taps the finished puzzle.

TOM (cont'd)  
Right. Yeah. Okay. No, can't wait  
either... Mhm. Yep. Okay see you  
there. Bye.

He ends the call with a look of absolute dread on his face.  
He turns to the pile on the couch and drearily extracts a  
change of clothes.

**EXT. BLUE BOTTLE - ARTS DISTRICT - MORNING.**

Tom hops out of a Lyft and trots towards Blue Bottle's Arts  
District location.

**INT. BLUE BOTTLE - ARTS DISTRICT - MORNING.**

Tom enters quietly. He spots RIAN at the back of a long line  
that snakes it's way to the counter (Late 30s, Malaysian,  
classically masculine, hyper confident, and well dressed.  
Imagining comedian Ronny Chieng).

TOM  
(Low and casual)  
Hey man.

RIAN  
(Loud, full of  
bravado)  
Big Tom in the house!

Tom winces, taken aback at Rian's volume, also he notices a  
few customers glance his way.

TOM  
Uh hey.

They hug.

RIAN  
It's been forever dude.

TOM  
Yeah it has.

RIAN  
Heard this place is good bro, it has  
five stars on Yelp, with four hundred  
something reviews, so it's not my  
fault if it's shitty, like, I did the  
research okay?

TOM  
I'm sure it'll be fine.

RIAN  
Better fucking not be "fine", it  
better be the best cup I've had all  
week, fucking prices like these.

TOM  
No, yeah, totally. Uh how long are  
you in town for?

RIAN  
On my way out actually.

Tom nods, *thank god*.

BARISTA  
(To Rian)  
Hi. What can I get for you?

RIAN  
Something iced and make it strong,  
like a triple something bullshit  
thing.

BARISTA  
Mhm. Do you prefer espresso or cold  
brew?

RIAN  
Just strong, I don't know the  
difference, and whatever he wants.

TOM  
Oh you don't have to do that man.

RIAN  
Yeah, that's the rule bro, you still  
have points, remember?

TOM  
Oh my god *points*, I forgot about that  
game.

RIAN  
You forgot about points? How could  
you forget about points??

TOM  
Uhh- I don't know, maybe because  
college was a decade ago?

RIAN  
Oh my god...

TOM  
Yeah.

RIAN  
Disgusting.

TOM  
I feel the same way.

BARISTA  
(To Tom)  
And for you sir?

TOM  
Right. Hi, I'll take a gibraltar with  
almond milk. Sparkling water on the  
side and can I get the bottle and a  
glass?

BARISTA  
Sure.

RIAN  
Dude, what is that?! You're like the  
Mayor of Coffee Town over here, like  
Juan Valdez's grandson or something,  
like you know the little names and  
shit?

TOM  
Uh, I mean, they're just on the menu,  
right there.

Rian turns to notice.

RIAN  
Oh.

**EXT. BLUE BOTTLE - DAY.**

They sit and chat at a table outside the cafe while drinking  
their coffees.

RIAN  
How's that girl you're dating?

TOM  
What girl?

RIAN  
(Fishing)  
You know, that girl, ah-ah...

TOM  
Rene?

RIAN  
Yeah!

TOM  
We broke up.

RIAN  
What?! Dude, when?

TOM  
Ah, like four years ago?

RIAN  
Four years ago? You could fit a college degree in that gulf. You could have gotten a degree in something useless like History in that amount of time.

TOM  
My degree was in History actually...

RIAN  
Dude, why did I think you were seeing someone?

Tom shrugs, clearly ready for this interaction to be over.

TOM  
I don't know man.

RIAN  
Well, anyway, my friend, she just moved out here. In Glendale. Over by that big ass mall?

TOM  
The Galleria?

RIAN  
Yeah-I don't know.

TOM  
So this is a girl you used to date or an actual platonic "friend"?