

Roses are Red

by

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1. EXT CRAIG AND MARILYN'S HOME - NIGHT

Taxi drives off leaving CRAIG (40), businessman in a suit, outside his house. He is carrying a bunch of red roses, the sort bought from a service station or the side of the road, a dutyfree bag and suitcase.

Craig yawns, he's tired from a long flight.

Keys out Craig goes to unlock the front door and is surprised to discover the door is open. He pushes the door inward on the alert for intruders. He leaves his suitcase outside and steps into the house still holding the roses and dutyfree.

CRAIG
(whispers)
Marilyn. Marilyn...

2. INT CRAIG AND MARILYN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Craig enters the bedroom. MARILYN (40), wearing a dressing gown is in bed. She does a bad impression of someone waking up and being surprised to see her husband.

Craig steps into the room and smiles with relief. He drops the roses on the bed and the dutyfree on the floor.

CRAIG
(relieved)
Marilyn!

Craig is about to walk toward his cupboard when Marilyn's gaze drifts over to the curtains, they are moving slightly and a pair of feet are just visible under the edge.

MARILYN
(shouts)
Darling. You're home early.

Loosening his tie Craig turns back to Marilyn and the feet shuffle behind the curtain

MARILYN
I was reading. I must have fallen asleep.

Marilyn realises she has no book and makes a show of patting down the covers in search of one.

Craig takes off his jacket and throws it at a chair. He picks up the roses and hands them to Marilyn. She takes them and not knowing what to do with them drops them on the bedside table.

CRAIG
The front door was open. I thought we'd been burgled again...

Marilyn has swapped roses for a book and has opened it to prove she'd been reading. After a second she turns it the

right way up.

MARILYN

Sorry, I forgot...

CRAIG

I'm beat.

(beat)

Hungry?

Marilyn notices a man's shirt lying at the end of the bed. She throws the covers back and lands on top to hide it. She smiles at her husband.

MARILYN

Are you hungry?

(beat)

Takeaway?

CRAIG

Thai.

(Marilyn nods)

The usual.

(Marilyn nods again)

Craig leans over and kisses her. He walks out of the bedroom.

Marilyn sags with relief. She shuts the bedroom door, grabs the shirt from under the duvet, jumps off the bed and goes to the window.

PETER

(from behind the curtain)

Has he gone?

Peter's head appears between the curtains. Marilyn shoves his shirt at him.

PETER

My pants?

MARILYN

Shit. I thought you had them?

(Peter shakes his head)

Peter is putting his shirt on and steps out from behind the curtain.

Marilyn opens the window and points. Peter shakes his head.

MARILYN

Out.

Marilyn hears footsteps and pushes Peter out of the window and onto the garage roof. She swishes the curtains closed, turns and sees Peter's trousers under the bed.

She dives forward and picks them up.

Craig walks back in reading a takeaway menu. He is speaking as he walks into the bedroom. Marilyn hides the trousers behind her back and makes her way back to the window.

CRAIG

Thai's closed. How about the new
Greek place that's opened up.

There is a large thud outside. Craig looks up in surprise.

MARILYN

Possum...

Craig walks over to the curtain swishes them back.

MARILYN

I can...

Marilyn gasps and is relieved when there is nobody outside the window. Craig closes the window cutting off Marilyn's way of getting rid of the trousers.

Craig offers the menu for a Greek restaurant. Marilyn keeps one hand behind her back and takes the menu, as she steps toward Craig a wallet and a phone land on the ground with a thud. Marilyn and Craig both stare at the items and then at each other.

3. INT ANGIE AND PETER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

ANGIE (40), dressed in jeans and shirt, is watching television in the near darkness.

She hears knocking on the front door. She picks up the remote and mutes the television.

Switching on lights she walks into the hallway where she can see the silhouette of a man through the glass.

Walking to the door she speaks to the silhouette.

ANGIE

Did you forget your keys... again..

(beat)

Good job I'm home...

4. EXT CARPARK IN A SHOPPING CENTRE - NIGHT

OFFICER JANET (30), in police uniform, is carrying two coffees and balancing a bag of food on top. She puts the coffees on the roof of a squad car and opens the door.

She leans in and hands over the food and drinks to her partner, OFFICER JAMES (30), in police uniform. Janet climbs into the passenger seat and closes the door.

The police car drives off.

5. EXT DARK STREET IN SUBURBIA - NIGHT

Sound of heavy breathing. Peter has been running home.

Wearing a shirt only, his hands are holding the front and back of the shirt to protect his modesty making running harder. He keeps ducking behind parked cars as he runs awkwardly on the footpath past dark houses.

Sound of people talking and a couple turn the corner onto the footpath he is on.

Peter veers onto a driveway, trips on garden edging and falls face first onto the lawn. A security light detects movement and switches on. Peter is fully visible in the middle of the lawn.

The couple's voices get louder. Peter lifts his head, he crawls into a garden bed and stays low.

5. EXT INT COP CAR - NIGHT

Officers Janet and James are sitting in their car drinking coffee.

OFFICER JAMES

Quiet night.

OFFICER JANET

Now you've done it.

James looks quizzically at her.

OFFICER JANET

I'm blaming you if there's a riot..

James snorts as if, and drinks his coffee. A DOG WALKER FEMALE (50) moves past them, the two officers watch and then lose interest.

6. EXT DARK STREET IN SUBURBIA - NIGHT

The voices fade away. Peter, head first, appears from behind a shrub. He crawls forward and stands, holding his shirt down. He takes a step, triggers the security light and is lit up again.

Sound of a front door opening. HOMEOWNER MALE (50) is carrying rubbish out. Peter and the homeowner lock eyes. Before the home owner can speak Peter runs out of the garden. He is covered in mulch and leaves, bits fall off him as he runs.

Peter runs out of the front garden and into the dog walker, female.

The dog walker and Peter scream. The dog growls and Peter trips and falls. The dog walker is treated to a view of Peter's bum, she screams again.

Holding his shirt tight over his backside and crotch Peter runs away.

7. INT COP CAR - NIGHT

James and Janet are on their phones.

OFFICER JAMES

Told you it was a quiet night.

Janet gives him a look and rolls her eyes.

8. EXT DARK STREET IN SUBURBIA - NIGHT

Peter is ducked down behind parked cars. Voices are receding in the distance. He stands up slowly and breathes a sigh of relief.

He starts to walk and winces, he has stepped on something sharp. He lifts his foot to inspect. Behind him a garage door starts to roll up and a car pulls onto the driveway. Peter is caught between the garage and a dad and son returning home.

The driver, DAD (45) stares at the nearly naked man on his driveway. TEENAGE SON (15) in the front passenger seat holds up his phone and takes a photo.

Hands up to hide his face Peter jumps backwards and out of the way and hobbles down the road and past a parked police car. He stops a few metres ahead and bends at the waist, breathing hard.

9. INT POLICE CAR - NIGHT

Janet watches Peter run past. She is about to drink her coffee, she stops, cup halfway to mouth and leans forward to see better. James flicks the headlights onto full beam and they get a full view of Peter's backside.

Janet and James grimace. Janet spills her coffee in her haste to switch off the high beam.

OFFICER JANET

Quiet night!

James laughs.

10. EXT DARK STREET IN SUBURBIA - NIGHT

Headlights flood the street with light. Peter inhales and exhales and takes a step forward but stumbles. His feet are sore, his legs are covered in mulch and he has bits of greenery stuck to him.

A police siren blips and blue lights flash. Peter turns slowly on the spot and sees the police car.

The camera view is from Peter watching the police car.

The door opens and Janet climbs out, she is using a napkin to mop up spilt coffee.

Peter slowly raises his arms and waits for the officer to join him.

Janet looks up from cleaning her uniform and grimaces at the sight of Peter fully naked in front of her. (The camera view is of Janet's face, not of Peter naked.)

OFFICER JANET
Arms down. Please. This is a family
neighbourhood.

Peter tugs his shirt down as far as he can. Bits of greenery fall off Peter and land on the ground at his feet.

Officer James has joined Janet, he is trying not to laugh.

OFFICER JAMES
ID?

Peter looks down and makes a motion that he has nothing, not even underpants.

OFFICER JANET
Give me a reason why we shouldn't
arrest you for indecency?

PETER
(beat)
I got mugged...

OFFICER JANET
For your pants...

The cops share a look. It's clear they don't believe Peter.

OFFICER JAMES
Where are you headed?

PETER
Home.

OFFICER JAMES
We'll take you.
(gestures for Peter to
get in the police car)
Address?

Officer Janet is not happy about this. She grabs James by the arm and turns away from Peter.

OFFICER JANET
(underbreath)
He's naked.

James turns his head to confirm this is still the case and nods.

OFFICER JAMES

Two choices. We arrest him or take him home. Either way he's coming with us. The second option is less paperwork....

OFFICER JANET

(sulky)

I've just had the car valeted...

11. EXT: ANGIE AND PETER'S PORCH - NIGHT

Angie unlocks the front door and is confused by Craig's presence. She doesn't know him.

ANGIE

Can I help you?

Craig is holding Peter's license in his hand. He reads the name to Angie.

CRAIG

Does Peter Bayron live here?

Angie nods.

Angie looks past Craig but can't see anyone.

ANGIE

Is Peter with you?

Craig shakes his head and tucks the license back inside the wallet. He holds it out for Angie to take.

CRAIG

These belong to you...

Angie takes the wallet and laughs.

ANGIE

Thank you so much for returning Peter's wallet. I swear he'd lose his head if...

Craig has a reusable shopping bag. He pulls out trousers, underpants, shoes and a phone, handing each item to Angie. She takes them with increasing confusion, making a pile in her arms.

ANGIE

How did you...

(she is looking at the pile of clothes)

Where did you find them?

CRAIG

In bed. With my wife.

12. EXT ANGIE AND PETER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A police car pulls up onto the driveway, headlights illuminate Peter and Angie. Both turn and watch the car pull up, shielding their eyes against the light.

Janet climbs out of the car. She walks round to the opposite side and opens the backdoor. She steps back.

Peter climbs out, clutching pages of newspaper to his front and back.

Officer James rolls down his window. Janet gets back in the front passenger seat.

OFFICER JAMES

Good luck.

Laughing the two police officers get back in their car, pip the siren and drive off.

Peter goes to wave them off and almost loses the newspaper. He turns around and is shocked to see Angie with another man at his front door.

Peter hobbles toward Angie.

PETER

(to Angie)

Angie. I'm so glad to see you. You wouldn't believe what happened. I got mugged and...

Angie takes aim and throws the wallet at Peter. It hits him on the chest, he ducks when she follows up with the phone. She takes one of his shoes and is about to aim, Peter puts up his arms in defence, when she changes her mind. She turns around and chucks the clothes and shoes into the hallway.

She smiles at Craig and holds out her hand.

ANGIE

I'm Angie.

Craig is surprised and then accepts her handshake

CRAIG

Craig.

ANGIE

I'm going to put the kettle on.
Coffee? Tea?

Craig opens up the bag he is holding, there is one more thing inside, the roses he bought for his wife. He hands them to Angie, they are not in great shape but Angie accepts them and laughs.

CRAIG

Love a coffee. Thanks.

Angie steps back and Craig walks inside. She shuts the front door. Sound of a key being turned.

PETER

Angie...

Alone, Peter picks up his phone and dials.

PETER

Angie.. I love you....

Peter stares at his phone.

The lawn sprinklers switch on. Peter dances on the spot and then with no other choice hobbles to the street and disappears from view.

A sheet of newspaper flies past.

Sound of a police siren blasting and flashing police lights illuminate the street.

THE END