

A Different Love

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INT. RESEARCH LAB - NIGHT

ALEXANDRA, good-looking, in her early 40s, sits at a long desk in front of a computer. Several small plants in glass containers, a microscope, and her cell phone lie on the desk.

MONIQUE, Alexandra's mid-20s assistant and lover, sits a few feet away. She scans a flower seed specimen with an electronic microscope.

(Monique speaks with a French accent).

ALEXANDRA

Did you find anything new?

MONIQUE

I'm working on one gene.

ALEXANDRA

We need two for a new pigment.

MONIQUE

I don't know if I can identify it, the color you want is genetically complicated.

ALEXANDRA

I know we'll find it, soon or later.

MONIQUE

I hope so, many geneticists have failed, you know.

ALEXANDRA

If you want to be a scientist, you have to believe in yourself. We shouldn't care if the others have failed, we know what we've to do.

MONIQUE

I meant, it's difficult--

ALEXANDRA

Success is always difficult to reach but one has to try, and try, and try.

MONIQUE

(long faced)

I hope you're right.

Monique's expression appears perturbed.

Alexandra looks at her and smiles.

ALEXANDRA
What's the matter, you seem troubled.

MONIQUE
I am. It's a month we're not going out. Even in bed you're always tired, your mind is absent. Do you still love me?

ALEXANDRA
Of course I do.

MONIQUE
When was the last time we made love?

Alexandra stares at her and smiles.

ALEXANDRA
(sweetly)
Come here.

Monique gets closer to her.

Alexandra gently hugs her and tenderly kisses her.

ALEXANDRA (cont'd)
I love you--

MONIQUE
More than the black roses?

ALEXANDRA
It's a different love, you know that.

MONIQUE
Why you want to develop a black rose?

ALEXANDRA
Because it would be the first natural black rose, and it will have our names. The MONALEX rose.

Monique bursts into a loud laugh.

MONIQUE
Monalex, I love this name.

They kiss again. This time with passionate fervor.

Suddenly, Alexandra cell phone RINGS. She looks at the screen and answers.

ALEXANDRA

Hi ROB.

ROB (V.O.)

Are you busy?

ALEXANDRA

We're working at the black pigment.
What's up?

ROB (V.O.)

There is a conference at the GENETICS
SOCIETY in Manhattan. Do you want to
come?

ALEXANDRA

Yes, Monique will be happy.

ROB (V.O.)

I'm sorry Alex, I have only two
tickets, for you and me.

ALEXANDRA

Nothing doing then, I'm not coming by
myself.

ROB (V.O.)

Do you know who the speakers are?

ALEXANDRA

No.

ROB (V.O.)

The people who probably will review
your grant application. It would be
nice if they see you there.

A long beat.

ALEXANDRA

Are you sure they're at the
conference?

ROB (V.O.)

This is why I called you.

A long beat.

ALEXANDRA

Let me talk with Monique and I'll
ring you back.

ROB (V.O.)
As soon as possible.

ALEXANDRA
Okay, thank you, talk to you soon.

INT. RESEARCH LAB - MINUTES LATER

Monique raises her head from the microscope. She looks displeased.

MONIQUE
(aggressively)
What does he want?

ALEXANDRA
We have to talk.

MONIQUE
Yeah, okay, let's talk.

ALEXANDRA
There is an important conference, all the best scientists will attend.

MONIQUE
I think it's great, a good chance for us to mingle.

A long silence.

ALEXANDRA
He has only two tickets.

MONIQUE
You mean for you and me?

ALEXANDRA
Well, no...for him and me.

MONIQUE
I see, what did you say?

ALEXANDRA
It's a good chance to meet the people who approve my research grant.

MONIQUE
I knew it, since you started this impossible project, your research is more important than us. I'm too young
(MORE)

MONIQUE (cont'd)
to be invited, right? Okay, go! I
don't know whom you are anymore.

ALEXANDRA
C'mon Monique, don't say that, you
know how much I love you, you a smart
researcher--

MONIQUE
(screaming)
Maybe, you love my work, but you
don't feel anything for me. Be
sincere, you care only about your
flowers and your selfish ambition. I
hate you and your ugly black roses.

ALEXANDRA
You're wrong, my work has nothing to
do with my feelings for you. I didn't
tell you yet, but--

MONIQUE
What?

ALEXANDRA
I want to marry you.

MONIQUE
This isn't the issue.

ALEXANDRA
(upset)
So, what's the problem?

MONIQUE
I don't want to marry you if love is
gone.

ALEXANDRA
Love isn't gone, do you really think
I would marry you without loving you?

Tears slide down Monique's cheeks. She sobs silently.

Alexandra hugs her and kisses her wet cheeks.

MONIQUE
I don't know what to think anymore.
It's all blurred.

ALEXANDRA
Don't cry, please. It breaks my heart
to see you suffer.

A long silent. Alexandra and Monique remain hugged.

ALEXANDRA (cont'd)
(whispering)
I love you so much.

Alexandra cellphone RINGS. She answers.

ALEXANDRA (cont'd)
Hi.

ROB(V.O.)
Did you decide? The organizers called me, they need to know who's attending.

ALEXANDRA
Yeah, I decided.

ROB(V.O.)
Well?

ALEXANDRA
I'm not coming.

A long silence.

ROB(V.O.)
May I ask you why?

ALEXANDRA
I want Monique to come with me.

ROB(V.O.)
I told you, it's impossible.

ALEXANDRA
I can pay for her ticket.

ROB(V.O.)
It's by invitation only. No ticket, no conference. Alex, you're making a huge mistake. You need that money. Without the grant you'll have to say goodbye to your black roses.

ALEXANDRA
I know, but I don't feel to come without her.

ROB(V.O.)
Are you sure?

ALEXANDRA

Positive.

ROB (V.O.)

Fine, have a good evening then.

ALEXANDRA

Are you upset?

ROB (V.O.)

Yeah, I am. You'll regret it.

ALEXANDRA

Thank you Rob, you're a good friend.

INT. RESEARCH LAB - NIGHT

Monique works on her electronic microscope. She is focused on her research.

Alexandra writes on a notebook.

ALEXANDRA

Any luck?

MONIQUE

Not yet. I saw a similar gene close to the BR1, but I'm not sure it will change the color.

ALEXANDRA

Try again, add the BR1 gene to the new gene and recombine their DNAs.

INT. RESEARCH LAB - TWO HOURS LATER

Monique still works on her microscope. She turns her head towards Alexandra who sits in front of her microscope.

Monique's face is illuminated by a dazzling smile.

Alexandra stares at her with an inquisitive expression.

ALEXANDRA

Why so happy?

MONIQUE

I found it! It's the right combination.

ALEXANDRA

Are you sure?

MONIQUE

Yes, I am. I attached the gene to the BR1 and it worked. We can insert it in a white rose and the next germination will produce only pure black roses--

ALEXANDRA

Let me check.

Alexandra moves to Monique's microscope and looks into it for a few minutes.

ALEXANDRA (cont'd)

You're right, congratulations, you got the pigment. You've created the first black rose.

MONIQUE

Yeah, a beautiful new flower.

ALEXANDRA

We'll make the announcement together and then...

MONIQUE

Then?

ALEXANDRA

We'll get married.

MONIQUE

Do you really want to?

ALEXANDRA

Yes, I do.

MONIQUE

Let's wait until the seed germinates.

ALEXANDRA

Why?

MONIQUE

Because I want to give you as my wedding gift the first ALEX black rose.

They kiss passionately.

The End