

EXPIRATION DATE

By

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INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

MATT, early thirties, sits at a small table in the corner. He sips from a mug of coffee and casually looks through a newspaper.

A woman, SELENA, late thirties and dressed in a tight red dress and red high heels, enters and approaches the counter.

Matt looks up from his paper, catching a glimpse of her standing at the counter. He eyes her backside for a moment, and quickly nods his head while exhaling a slight whistling noise.

He looks back to his paper, occasionally sneaking glances at Selena over the top of it.

A BARISTA stands at the register in front of Selena.

BARISTA
What can I get you?

SELENA
Just a tall coffee please.

BARISTA
Room for cream?

SELENA
Yes.

The Barista turns around, takes a small cup from a stack next to a pot and pours a cup of coffee.

Selena looks over to Matt, who looks up from his paper to see her looking at him.

She gives him a coy wink, which causes him to look around the shop to find no one else is there.

The Barista places the coffee on the counter.

BARISTA
That's a dollar twenty seven.

Selena lifts her dress slightly, revealing her thigh and the top elastic of her stocking, which holds assorted bills.

Matt catches a glimpse of her thigh, and smiles widely while looking back to his paper.

Selena pulls two dollar bills from the stocking and hands them to the Barista, looking at Matt the entire time.

SELENA
Keep the change.

Selena takes her coffee, moves over to a small table where the creamer is located and pours a small amount into her cup. She makes her way over to Matt's table.

SELENA
Is this seat taken?

Matt looks up from his paper.

MATT
I'm sorry?

Selena motions to the seat across from Matt.

SELENA
Is this seat taken?

Matt quickly closes his paper and tosses it to the floor.

MATT
No, no, not at all. Please.

Matt gestures toward the seat. Selena sits down and quickly shuffles it around the table closer to him.

SELENA
I must say that I'm surprised to find a man as attractive as you here all alone.

MATT
Probably not as surprised as I am to have someone like you just come up and talk to me. My name's --

Selena quickly puts a finger to Matt's mouth.

SELENA
No names. It's better this way.

MATT
What's better?

Selena smiles at Matt with a wide grin.

INT. MATT'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - DAY

Matt and Selena fall back in bed, both staring at the ceiling. Selena is peacefully content, while Matt lies there wide-eyed and sweating.

MATT
That was awesome.

SELENA
You weren't so bad yourself.

MATT
Seriously. That's the kinda stuff
you read about in Penthouse forum.

SELENA
I don't know if I'd go that far.

MATT
C'mon, you don't see the
connection? Boring schlub gets
picked up by a beautiful,
mysterious woman for a midday romp?

Selena laughs.

SELENA
Okay, so maybe it is.

MATT
The red dress itself was hot, but
the matching bra and panties were a
really nice touch.

Selena looks around on the floor next to the bed.

SELENA
Speaking of which.

She retrieves her red bra and panties from the floor, and moves around under the blankets for a moment putting them on.

She throws the blanket off and gets up, making her way to the foot of the bed.

Matt sits up, gazing at her longingly.

MATT
You are absolutely gorgeous.

Selena smiles and places her hands on her hips.

SELENA

Thank you.

MATT

Don't mention it.

Matt grabs his underwear from the floor and puts them on. He gets out of bed and moves to Selena, standing a few feet from her.

SELENA

I suppose it's time we got down to business.

Matt smiles.

MATT

Isn't that what we just did?

Matt's smile quickly disappears when his joke gets no reaction from Selena.

Matt's eyes open wide in surprise. He takes a seat on the edge of the bed and rubs a hand through his hair. He looks up to Selena.

MATT

Oh my God, are you a hooker? You didn't tell me you were a hooker before. If I had known that I wouldn't --

SELENA

I'm not a hooker. I'm here to take you to the other side.

Matt looks at Selena in confusion for a second before he quickly jumps up.

MATT

The other side? Jesus, please don't tell me you're one of those post op transsexuals. I don't think I can go on living if that's true.

SELENA

I'm not a post op transsexual either, Matt, but you do bring up an interesting point.

Matt raises a finger, waving it back and forth and pointing at Selena.

MATT

Wait a minute. How do you know my name? I didn't tell you my name.

SELENA

I know everything about you, Matt. Like I said, I'm here to take you to the other side.

MATT

What are you talking about? Other side?

SELENA

Have a seat.

MATT

No, I think I'll stand if you don't mind.

Selena shrugs it off.

SELENA

Suit yourself.

Selena takes a seat in a lounge chair in the corner of the room and props her feet up on an ottoman.

She sits for a moment, tapping her hands on the arms of the chair and moving her feet around on the ottoman. Matt throws his hands up in frustration.

MATT

Well?

SELENA

Matt, I've come for your soul.

The two stare at each other. Matt breaks into laughter.

MATT

You're joking right? Did one of my friends put you up to this? Very funny.

SELENA

Matt, this is no joke. My name is Selena and I'm a messenger of death. I've been sent to collect you because today is, as we say in the business, your expiration date.

Matt laughs again, harder this time. He bends over and picks up his pants.

MATT

Yeah, sure Selena, whatever you say. Is the coffee shop on the way to wherever you need to take my soul? I think I could use one after that chuckle.

Matt puts a leg inside his pants. Selena raises a finger and sharply points it at Matt.

SELENA

Bang!

Matt keels over. Selena gets up from the chair and walks over to his body on the ground. He lies there with his eyes and mouth wide open.

Selena kneels down, straddling him. She points a finger at him again, this time it revives him.

Matt looks up at Selena's beautiful body over him.

MATT

Is this heaven?

Selena shakes her head no.

SELENA

Nope, still your apartment. Now do you believe what I told you?

Matt starts flopping around.

MATT

Get off me. I can't die! I don't wanna die!

Selena quickly grabs Matt's arms and forces them to the ground above his head.

SELENA

Listen to me. Today is your day and there's nothing you can do about it. I'm sorry.

MATT

But, why didn't you just do it? Why do you have to go through with all of that picking me up and sleeping with me business?

Selena looks at Matt in surprise.

SELENA

Are you telling me you didn't enjoy it? Cause I could have just as easily struck you dead like I just did a minute ago you know.

MATT

Well no, I mean, yeah I enjoyed it. I just don't get it.

SELENA

Just a little service I provide. I just try to make everyone as comfortable as possible on their way out.

MATT

So why not just strike me dead mid orgasm?

Selena shakes her head in disbelief.

SELENA

You know, I just can't win. I tried that with a guy once, and he's hated me ever since. Every time I see him...

She motions her head upward.

SELENA

...up there, he gives me dirty looks and asks me why I couldn't have let him finish.

MATT

Yeah, but telling me five minutes after the fact kinda makes me feel like a death row inmate being led to the electric chair. The anticipation is killing me.

SELENA

No, I'm killing you.

Matt rolls his eyes.

MATT

Very funny.

SELENA

But I try to do the best I can when it comes to handling the situation.

SELENA
The last thing I need is everybody being mad at me. There's no place for that up there, and if everyone ends up mad at me it seems like my job is all for nothing.

MATT
You keep saying up there. Is that where I'm going?

SELENA
That isn't up to me, but you seem like a decent guy. I think the odds are in your favor.

MATT
Well, that's good to know.

SELENA
So, you ready or what?

Matt stares into her eyes for a moment before he shakes his head yes.

MATT
I'm ready.

SELENA
Good.

MATT
There's gotta be worse ways to go than being straddled by a beautiful woman, right?

SELENA
Oh yeah, you should hear some of the stories the other messengers have. You lucked out with me.

Matt and Selena share a smile.

MATT
That I did.

Selena winks at him.

SELENA
I'll see you around.

Selena bends down, delivering a slow, powerful kiss to Matt. Matt returns it until he expires. Selena raises her head and looks at Matt, whose open eyed stare projects total peace.

Selena lifts her hands to release her grip on Matt's arms, and shuts his eyes. She gets up and stands over him, placing her hands on her hips and looking down at him warmly.

Suddenly an old man, DEXTER, early seventies, barges into the room. He looks at Matt's body on the floor, then to Selena with scorn in his eyes.

SELENA

Dexter! What are you doing here?

DEXTER

You know good and darn well what I'm doing here. You've got to stop doing this.

Selena raises her arms at her sides.

SELENA

Doing what? I have no idea what you're talking about.

DEXTER

You can't keep killing people before their time in the hopes that you'll have a boyfriend up there. It's not good business, and we can't keep having the tabloids report about people's experiences up there.

SELENA

So what am I supposed to do?

DEXTER

You'll just have to find someone up there who died at the proper time to date.

Selena smirks.

SELENA

Yeah right. All that's up there is a bunch of old farts like you, and the ones who are my age are all mangled from accidents. What a drag.

DEXTER

That may be true, but the fact remains that this man still has about forty years of life left. Now let's get out of here so he can come back.

Selena pounds her foot on the floor and pouts.

SELENA

No! I wanna keep him!

DEXTER

He's not a pet! Now get your dress and come on. Am I going to have to fill out a report?

Selena lowers her head.

SELENA

No.

DEXTER

Good, then we're leaving.

SELENA

Fine!

Selena walks over, snatches her dress and stockings off the floor, and storms out of the apartment with them slung over her shoulder.

Dexter looks to the sky.

DEXTER

I swear, no shame on that girl, walking around like that. I'd say red suits her just fine.

Dexter walks out of the apartment and shuts the door behind him.

DEXTER (O.S.)

Selena! Take your hands off him!

Matt pops up from the floor, looking around the room in confusion.

MATT

What the hell? Did I just dream all of that?

Matt lowers his head, running a hand through his hair and staring off into space. He freezes, his glance catching something sticking out from under the bed.

He reaches over and picks it up. It's a red, high heeled shoe.

He stares at it in wonder, slowly shaking his head from side to side.

MATT

No way.

Matt moves the shoe around in his hands, inspecting it from all sides.

THE END