

Kittens

By

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OPEN:

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Aaron is stood outside the doorway of his girlfriend Justine's house. The girlfriend part is something that she is hoping to change.

AARON

You're dumping me?

JUSTINE

I'm afraid so. It's not working out and I'm going to have to let you go.

AARON

Let me go?

JUSTINE

I'm sorry.

AARON

Is there someone else?

JUSTINE

I just don't want to be tied down to any one person. That person being you.

AARON

What's wrong with me?

JUSTINE

There's nothing specific. It's not you, it's me.

AARON

Really?

JUSTINE

Not really.

AARON

What do you mean?

JUSTINE

It's you. I just don't want to be a part of this union anymore.

(CONTINUED)

AARON

What am I supposed to do without you?

JUSTINE

I don't know. If it makes it any better then-

Justine reaches inside the house and pulls out a large cardboard box.

She hands to a puzzled Aaron.

JUSTINE

This might help with things.

AARON

Kittens? You're giving me a box of kittens?

JUSTINE

It might help you to focus in this difficult time.

AARON

But I don't want kittens. I want you.

JUSTINE

Please take the kittens. Goodbye, Aaron. Take care of yourself.

Justine starts to close the door.

AARON

I love you.

The door slams in his face.

Aaron is shell shocked. He looks into the box.

CUT TO:

CREDITS (WHITE TEXT ON BLACK)

'KITTENS'

CUT TO:

INT. BUS SHELTER - DAY

Aaron is sat with the box on his lap. He looks at the mewling kittens.

The bus pulls up.

He goes to get on. Since both his hands are full, he has to take careful steps.

DRIVER

Whoa there. What's that?

AARON

It's a box of kittens.

DRIVER

Kittens, as in cats?

AARON

No, kittens as in lizards. How much to Mansell Avenue?

DRIVER

You can't bring them on here.

AARON

Why not?

DRIVER

Health and safety. No animals allowed.

AARON

They're kittens. They're not dangerous.

DRIVER

That's not the issue. We can't have them on here.

AARON

You let dogs on here.

DRIVER

Guide dogs. You know, dogs for the blind.

AARON

Can't you just look the other way on this one? I've just been dumped and-

(CONTINUED)

DRIVER

Look, buddy, I don't make the rules.

AARON

They're just kittens.

DRIVER

Can you move along, please? There are people waiting to board.

AARON

This is crazy.

DRIVER

Says the man with a box of cats.

AARON

I can't believe this.

DRIVER

Have a good day, sir.

Aaron grumbles and exits.

EXT. STREET - SAME

Aaron heads down the street.

A man passes. He is walking a dog which barks at Aaron and the cats.

AARON

Shut up.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - DAY

Aaron is sat on a park bench.

The box of kittens is on the empty space next to him.

AARON

(on mobile)

A box of cats. I gave her my heart and soul for four and a half years and she gave me a box full of cats! Can you believe that? Of course you can't, it's ridiculous. No one gives anyone a box of animals at

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

AARON (cont'd)  
any time, least of all during a  
break up. I mean, what the hell am  
I supposed to do with them? I don't  
even think I'm allowed to keep pets  
at the flat. This is her final kick  
in the nuts. She thought: "I'll  
break Aaron's heart and ruin his  
weekend. What else could I do? How  
could I top that and give him a  
truly unique break up experience? I  
know, I'll give him some kittens."  
(sighs)

So, Mom, if you get this message,  
please call me back. This is your  
Son. I'm at the end of my tether.

Aaron stuffs the phone back into his pocket.

The kittens can be heard.

Aaron looks at the box and then off camera. He looks at the  
box of furry responsibility and then towards freedom. He  
weights up the options before he gets up and walks away,  
leaving the cats behind.

We hold onto the cats for a long beat. We can hear them  
meowing.

Aaron returns. He can't just leave them. He scoops up the  
box, shakes his head and exits.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Aaron walks with the box.

He passes a small pet store. He stops, spins on his heels  
and heads inside.

INT. PET STORE - SAME

Aaron approaches the counter of the shop.

The place is old fashioned and filled with animal-related  
products. He can hear birds squawking in the back. Aaron  
notices a bell on the counter and rings it.

A man (LARRY) emerges from the back room. He greets Aaron  
with a warm smile.

(CONTINUED)

LARRY

Hello, young man. How can I help you?

AARON

I have some cats.

LARRY

We have lots of items for cats; toys, food, scratching posts, casual jackets..

AARON

I'm not really looking to buy anything like that. You see, I have some cats that I thought you might like to sell.

LARRY

Cats?

AARON

In this box. See.

Aaron shows him the box.

AARON

I was given them as a parting gift but I really can't look after them. I was walking past this place and-

LARRY

We don't really buy animals from people. We usually sell them.

AARON

Oh, I'm not selling them. I'm donating them. To you. Take my cats.

LARRY

I can't do that, sir.

AARON

Why not?

LARRY

Those cats aren't very attractive.

AARON

What do you mean 'not very attractive'? They're kittens. Look at the kittens, Larry. Look at

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

AARON (cont'd)  
their little furry faces. They're  
cute as buttons.

LARRY  
Cute is one thing but we really  
sell attractive animals.

AARON  
I'm afraid I don't understand. What  
constitutes as attractive?

LARRY  
The 'Wow' factor?

AARON  
The 'Wow' factor. Who buys a pet  
based on that?

LARRY  
My customers. They come here to buy  
handsome creatures. Have you seen  
our fish?  
(points)  
They're charming.

AARON  
Fish look mostly generic.

LARRY  
Not our fish.

AARON  
So you don't want a box of free  
cats?

LARRY  
If they were more attractive, I'd  
bite your hand off. *Literally*.  
Unfortunately, what you have there  
is a trio of mediocre felines that  
no one would want.

AARON  
I don't want them and it's not  
because of their appearance. I just  
don't need cats right now.

LARRY  
I wish I could help you.



AARON

No, you don't. You don't wish that at all.

LARRY

Well, my first wish would be for a diamond jacket. The second, and I'm not trying to be rude here, would be for you to go away.

AARON

Fine.

Aaron picks up the box of cats and pulls a face at Larry.

Larry reacts in mild shock at this rather weak, impromptu gesture.

Aaron exits.

Larry shakes his head.

LARRY

What a strange young man.

EXT. STREET - SAME

Aaron heads down the the street with his box of cats.

He passes an arguing couple. He stops, looks at the cute kittens and walks over to them.

He coughs to get their attention.

LAURA, the teary eyed girl and ROBIN, her red-faced partner, turn to see Aaron offering his best fake smile.

AARON

Hello there.

LAURA

Hello?

AARON

I'm sorry to interrupt your argument but, since I hate seeing love fall apart, I thought I'd throw my hat into the arena. Or should that be *cat* into the arena?

Aaron shows them the box of cats.

(CONTINUED)

LAURA

Aww!

AARON

I know! Look at their little, calming faces. I don't know what your problems are but couldn't you both put down your swords to lavish attention on one, if not all, of these adorable kittens? They are free to a good home.

ROBIN

I don't think cats are the answer to our problems.

LAURA

But they're so cute!

ROBIN

Be that as it may, they're not going to solve our problems.

AARON

Are you sure? Cats are supposed to be relaxing. Stroke one. See how it feels.

ROBIN

I don't think that-

AARON

Get your hand in there. Stroke one. Stroke all three if you like. Feel their soft fur.

Robin puts his hand into the box.

AARON

Can you feel that sexual anger just melting away? I can. Keep stoking them, sir. Keep feeling the love.

LAURA

Can I stroke them?

ROBIN

You've stroked enough!

AARON

Let her have a turn.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

She doesn't deserve to stroke these cats.

AARON

Come together. Show them love. Show each other love. After all, a house divided cannot stand. Or something.

ROBIN

She cheated on me.

Aaron immediately drops the act and angrily yanks the box from Laura.

Robin continues to stoke the cats as Aaron addresses Laura.

AARON

How could you?

LAURA

It's not really any of your business. Could I stoke the cats now please?

AARON

No! This wronged man is correct. You don't deserve to stoke these lovely kittens.

LAURA

But I want to stroke them!

AARON

You've stroked enough! No, these animals are for people that know how to be loyal and decent!

ROBIN

Yeah, the strange man with the box of cats is right. You cheated on me six times in six months...with six different people!

AARON

Have you no shame?

LAURA

I have a bit of shame.

AARON

I don't think you do.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

She doesn't.

AARON

I've just been dumped so I know what this poor guy is going through. You are the worst kind of person, you grass-is-always-greener-on-the-other-side bitch!

LAURA

Stuff this.

Laura exits.

AARON

You don't need her, dude.

ROBIN

You're right. Thanks for that. I probably would have buckled if it wasn't for you. I keep doing it, I don't know why.

AARON

Love is hell. Still, now you've got these cats to ease your broken heart.

ROBIN

I don't want the cats, pal. It was nice to stroke them and everything but I don't have the time to look after pets. Not now I'm going to be living the single life again. I'm going to indulge and enjoy myself!

AARON

Could you at least take one? That way we can both enjoy ourselves on a part time basis.

ROBIN

Thanks but I'll be fine. Thanks for everything though.

AARON

Half a cat?

ROBIN

Doesn't make sense, mate. Thanks again.

(CONTINUED)

Robin exits.

AARON  
Damn it! What do I have to do?

A business woman, talking quickly on her mobile, passes Aaron.

AARON  
Hey, Mackintosh! Do you want some free cats or what?

The woman waves him off.

Aaron shakes his head. He places the cats onto the floor and starts to shout.

AARON  
FREE CATS! COME AND GET YOUR FREE CATS! No sinister small print, just free cats! Roll up! Roll up!

The people around him are naturally dubious about this strange young man and his box of supposed cats.

MAN  
Why are you giving away kittens?

AARON  
Because I can't look after them.

MAN  
Why not?

AARON  
Well, I live in a flat for one thing. It's not practical.

MAN  
You could move.

AARON  
That's not a practical solution. Do you want a cat or what?

MAN  
What's wrong with them?

AARON  
Why would there be anything wrong with them?

(CONTINUED)

MAN

No one gives anything away these days. No without anything tacked on.

AARON

And what would I 'tack on' to these cats? Listening devices?

MAN

You could be using them to smuggle drugs.

AARON

It's drugs mule, sir, not drugs cat. Move along. You're wasting my time..and you're weird. Be gone. Hop it. You just lost out on a free pet.

Aaron waves the man off.

A man in a combat jacket waltzes over. He has his name 'ROGER' written on his jacket.

AARON

And what's your name then?

ROGER

(not getting the sarcasm)  
Roger.

AARON

Can I interest you in a cat or two, Roger?

ROGER

Do they fight?

AARON

Only in the way that cats normally do. I don't know.

ROGER

Could they be trained to fight for money?

AARON

What?

ROGER

I'm trying to put together a sort-of cock fight. But with cats.

(CONTINUED)

AARON  
(rolls eyes)  
Give me strength!

ROGER  
Is that a no?

AARON  
That's a massive no. Move along.  
(to himself)  
I don't believe this.

Another odd looking character approaches but Aaron cuts him off before he even says anything.

AARON  
No! Turn around. Go on!

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

We are in Aaron's living room. The TV is on.

We pan around before slowly revealing Aaron. He has the kittens crawling over him.

He looks miserable.

The cats climb over him. One of them climbs up his face and sits on his head. The other is relaxing on his shoulder and the third kitten is sleeping in his lap.

We move closer to Aaron's sad expression.

The kittens purr and meow.

The phone rings.

Aaron slowly reaches over and picks up the phone.

AARON  
Aaron speaking.

JUSTINE (V.O)  
Aaron, it's Justine.

AARON  
Hello.

(CONTINUED)

JUSTINE (V.O)

Are you OK?

AARON

Meh.

JUSTINE (V.O)

I just wanted to call you and see how you are. Everything was so weird when we spoke. I mean, I gave you a box of cats for gods sake! That's not rational thinking. I was in such an odd place the other day. It's been a rough ride. Look, could we go for a drink and talk about things? I miss you. We could go to that bar we went to on our first date. Remember that? I know someone who can have the cats. I've already looked into that for you. What do you say?

AARON

That's OK. We don't have to do that. We didn't work out and it's better than we look for other people. Oh, and F.Y.I..

A tail waves in his face. Aaron's sad face starts to turn and a smile forms.

AARON

..I'm keeping the fucking kittens.

FADE OUT: