

Love Jam

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INT. NEW YORK CITY - APARTMENT - DAY

ANNIE, a nice-looking brunette in her 30s, paces the living room nervously. She talks on her cell phone.

ANNIE

I don't know what to tell you.

VOICE (V.O.)

I'm only asking you one simple question, do you love me?

ANNIE

JIM, listen, I can't jump into a love relationship. We can only be friends.

JIM (V.O.)

Friendship is not enough Annie, I have deep feeling for you, why don't you get it?

ANNIE

I do, I do, but I can't give you more than friendship.

JIM

You always said you like me a lot.

ANNIE

Yeah, I do but love is different.

JIM

Be sincere, did you ever try to love me?

ANNIE

It's useless to try...I know I don't love you.

Suddenly, the line goes dead. Jim is gone.

INT. ANNIE'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - LATER

Annie sits at the kitchen's table. She glances at the bare wall opposite the table.

Tears slide down her cheeks. Her body trembles.

ANNIE

Why, why I'm like this, why?

A long silence answers her question.

ANNIE
This damn philophobia is destroying
my life.

INT. ANNIE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Annie sits on a couch. She talks on the cell phone with her
best friend MATEA.

ANNIE
I'm devastated, yesterday Jim asked
me if I was in love with him.

MATEA
And?

ANNIE
You can imagine.

MATEA
Same problem?

ANNIE
Yeah.

MATEA
Honey, you can't live your life
running away from love.

ANNIE
What can I do...it's not my fault if
I'm sick.

MATEA
But you are not doing anything to get
better, to become a different person.

ANNIE
I don't know how. Do you have an
idea?

MATEA
I was reading in a magazine that it's
possible, I mean, one can change
personality.

ANNIE
I don't believe it, we are who we
are, that's all.

MATEA

They just opened a clinic where you can modify your personality with an implant in the brain.

ANNIE

You mean they can change the way I think?

MATEA

Yes, this is what the article says.

ANNIE

It seems science fiction, are you sure?

MATEA

Honey, we're in the 21st century, science is moving forward, new things are coming out every day.

ANNIE

I don't know if--

MATEA

What you have to lose, make an appointment and find out.

INT. BRAIN IMPLANTATION CLINIC - DAY

In a large WAITING ROOM, several people, MALES and FEMALES between 30 and 50 years old wait for Dr. RITTER, the clinic's director.

Annie sits near a window. She glances distractedly over a magazine. She looks apprehensive.

INT. BRAIN IMPLANTATION CLINIC - LATER

A NURSE in her 40s appears from a side door.

NURSE

Annie, please follow me.

Annie swiftly leaves her chair and walks in the direction of the nurse.

INT. BRAIN IMPLANTATION CLINIC - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Doctor Ritter, a corpulent, bearded, glass-wearing man in his 60s, sits behind a large desk.

A computer and a few files occupy most of the desk's surface.

Annie sits on a comfortable chair in front of him.

She glances at him with an anxious look.

RITTER
You look edgy, why?

Annie tries a forced smile.

ANNIE
I don't know...I can't believe I can change the way I am.

RITTER
I understand. Let me explain the protocol. You'll see that, after all, it's not so complicated.

ANNIE
Thank you doctor.

Doctor Ritter adjusts his eyeglasses while he looks at Annie.

He opens a file.

RITTER
Let me start from the beginning, the clinic was founded 10 years ago by the now defunct Doctor MILLER. His mission was to help people with difficult personalities. By changing his or her psychological traits, an individual could achieve self-realization and happiness.

ANNIE
Overall, I'm a happy person.

RITTER
But incomplete, you are afraid of falling in love. This makes your life very complicated and extremely limited.

ANNIE

Maybe It's true...I'm miserable.

RITTER

Don't worry, your case is not too difficult to resolve. Your personality is within the norm, we only have to modify your brain's aversion to love. In essence, to defeat your fear of love.

ANNIE

Is the procedure painful?

Doctor Ritter smiles.

RITTER

Oh no, we use a machine invented by Doctor Miller. It's like an MRI, I assume you had an MRI before.

ANNIE

Yes, I did.

RITTER

It takes about 25 minutes and after the procedure, other 30 minutes to make sure the brain has incorporated the new traits. I assure you, a very comfortable and safe process.

ANNIE

It seems so futuristic. How does this machine work?

RITTER

In your case, we implant all the aspects of love in different parts of the brain, where they are missing. Then, we use a special magnetic field machine to scan the brain to make sure the implant is permanently part of your brain structure.

ANNIE

Did you have any problems with the implantation?

RITTER

Nothing we could not fix...really minor episodes with less than one percent of the patients.

ANNIE
Any issues with the love implant?

RITTER
Nothing remarkable. You'll feel pure
and strong love. Maybe, a negligible
side effect.

A beat.

ANNIE
Okay doctor, let's do it.

INT. ANNIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Annie stands in the middle of the kitchen. She talks on the
cell phone with Matea while sipping white wine.

ANNIE
It was simple--

MATEA (V.O.)
How long did it take?

ANNIE
Maybe on hour.

MATEA (V.O.)
What you feel now?

ANNIE
I'm thinking about Jim.

MATEA (V.O.)
Is this what you want, right?

Annie hesitates before answering.

ANNIE
Yeah.

MATEA (V.O.)
So, talk to him and see what happens.

ANNIE
I'll call him now. Thank you, love
you.

MATEA
Love you too.

INT. ANNIE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Annie lounges on a comfortable armchair. She talks on her cell phone.

She exhibits a happy, relaxed expression.

ANNIE
I'm glad you're okay...

JIM (V.O.)
Why did you call me?

ANNIE
I need to talk.

JIM (V.O.)
Listen Annie, if you think that we can be just friends, you're wasting your time and mine.

ANNIE
It's not the reason why I called you. I want to tell you something.

JIM (V.O.)
Okay, what?

A long beat.

ANNIE
I love you!

A deep silence.

JIM (V.O.)
Are you making fun of me?

ANNIE
No, I swear, I love you.

JIM (V.O.)
What happened to the friendship?

ANNIE
I'm feeling...I thought over...I'm different now, trust me.

JIM (V.O.)
I would like to believe you, I don't know, how could you have changed in a month? Are you sure you love me?

ANNIE

Yeah, I love you very much. I need you.

JIM (V.O.)

Can you prove it?

ANNIE

I want to make love to you, come tomorrow night.

JIM (V.O.)

Do you really want to make--

ANNIE

Yeah, damn it. I love you so very much.

INT. ANNIE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Annie talks on her cell phone.

She looks relaxed.

ANNIE

Hi, is this PAUL?

PAUL (V.O.)

Yeah, Paul speaking. Who're you?

ANNIE

You didn't recognize me? I'm Annie.

PAUL (V.O.)

I remember you, Miss friendship. How are you?

ANNIE

I'm fine. What are you doing?

PAUL (V.O.)

Same life, working and playing tennis.

ANNIE

Married?

PAUL (V.O.)

No. And you?

ANNIE

No.

PAUL (V.O.)
I know, you want to have just
friends.

ANNIE
Can we meet?

PAUL (V.O.)
We can't play the same game,
friendship is not what I'm looking
for with you, you know that.

ANNIE
This time, we can talk about love.

PAUL (V.O.)
You're kidding me, right?

ANNIE
No Paul, I really love you, I swear!
I want to make love to you.

INT. ANNIE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Annie pushes the keypad on the push-button cell phone.

A robust voice jumps out of the phone.

VOICE (V.O.)
Hello.

ANNIE
Hi KARL, this is Annie, remember me?

The End

