

LUCKY WINNER

by Mike Sheerin

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EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

A gray haired, grandfatherly-looking man in a suit and tie, Rupert, stands next to a beautiful blonde 30 something in a business suit, KERRY, in the well kept front yard of a moderately-sized suburban house. Rupert grasps a microphone in his hands, while Kerry poses with a massive foamcore novelty check. A cameraman in a tan vest, PHIL, raises his camera, aiming it at the pair. He fiddles with a dial on the side of the massive contraption.

RUPERT

We ready?

PHIL

Yep. Rolling in three...two..

Phil holds up one finger, and points it at Rupert.

RUPERT

Welcome back to Rupert *and Kerry in the Afternoon*. For those of you who are just joining us, we're here at the home of Mr. Sam Reubens, the lucky winner of our monthly "R & K in the A" sweepstakes! And we're about to make his day, isn't that right Kerry?

KERRY

Sure is, Rupert. We're about to present Mr. Reubens, our lucky winner, with this check for one hundred thousand dollars! Live!

Rupert chuckles good-naturedly.

RUPERT

Well all right Kerry, let's give Mr. Reubens the surprise of his life!

KERRY

Lets!

Rupert motions to Kerry, making an "after you" gesture.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - DAY

The pair walk confidently up to the front door of the house--Phil follows behind, filming. Rupert rings the doorbell, and after a moment, motion can be heard inside. Rupert motions towards Phil, who raises his camera and begins filming.

After a long beat, a gorgeous but slightly trampy looking brunette 20-something, LACEY, opens the door. She is wearing a

men's button down shirt that is far too big for her, and doesn't appear to be wearing pants.

LACEY
Um...hello?

RUPERT
Hello there, I'm Rupert Dillman, of
Rupert and Kerry in the Afternoon. And
you're Mrs. Reubens, I presume?

Lacey seems taken aback by the question, she glances around nervously before answering.

LACEY
Um...no. I'm...I'm
the...cleaning...lady.

Rupert smiles, not missing a beat.

RUPERT
I see. Well, is Mr. Reubens home?
We're here to give him the surprise of
his life!

Kerry holds up the massive piece of white cardboard enthusiastically.

Lacey's eyes light up, as she seems to notice the massive check for the first time. She can barely contain her excitement as she answers.

LACEY
OhmyGod! Yeah! Let me go get him!

Lacey turns around and quickly walk/runs into the interior of the house, Rupert and Kerry are left standing on the front porch. Lacey left the door open, and her voice, as well as DANIEL's, can be heard yelling to each other inside.

LACEY (CONT'D)
Hey hon? There's some people at the
door for you!

DANIEL
What?! Who?! And what the hell did I
tell you about answering the door?!

LACEY
I know, I know, I'm sorry! But some TV
people are here, and I think they've
got something for you!

Footsteps can be heard from the front porch, and soon Daniel, a barrel chested man in his 40's, emerges through the doorway.

Lacey follows closely behind, peering out from behind his shoulder. Daniel's eyes widen when he sees Rupert and Kerry.

DANIEL
No...No way. No way!

Rupert warmly extends his hand to shake.

RUPERT
Hello Mr. Reubens, do you know who I am?

Daniel grabs his hand and shakes it feverishly.

DANIEL
Yeah, yeah of course! You're Rupert Dillman!

RUPERT
And do you know why I'm here?

Daniel is sweating visibly.

DANIEL
You're kidding me, the contest?!

RUPERT
That's right Mr. Reubens! You're our lucky viewer of the month!

Kerry holds up the check.

KERRY
And we're here to present you with this check for one hundred thousand dollars!

Lacey wraps her arms around Daniel's shoulders. He looks too shocked for words.

LACEY
We're rich baby! We're rich!

Daniel's glazed expression lasts for a long moment, and then he exhales. He looks at Lacey, and then at the check, and a huge grin comes over his face.

DANIEL
I'm...rich. I'm rich! I'm fucking rich! Holy shit! Holy Mother of God fucking shit fuck!

Daniel begins jumping up and down on the spot.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
Holy shit! Holy shit!

Kerry gives Rupert a distressed look. He looks back with a placid expression.

RUPERT
(quietly to Kerry)
We'll edit it out later.

Suddenly, looking over Rupert and Kerry, Daniel notices a blue minivan pulling into the driveway of his house. His eyes widen, and he grabs Lacey by the arm.

DANIEL
Shit! You gotta hide!

He pushes her into the house.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

The driver's side door of the minivan opens, and SAM, a slightly frumpy looking woman in her 30's, storms out of the car. She begins power-walking up to the front porch, a look of pure rage on her face.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - DAY

Phil lowers the camera, and Rupert punches him lightly on the shoulder.

RUPERT
(quietly)
Keep filming!

Phil nods and raises the camera. Sam steps onto the porch, not seeming to notice anyone but Daniel. He opens his mouth to speak, but she shouts before he can say a word.

SAM
You bastard! You goddamn bastard I
fucking knew it!

Daniel feigns a look of innocence.

DANIEL
Honey! I-

SAM
Who is she?! Which one of your *fucking*
whores is in my house!

Sam points her finger menacingly at Daniel, she still doesn't seem to notice the television broadcasters and cameraman standing on the front porch. She quickly tries to rush past Daniel into the house, but he holds her back.

SAM (CONT'D)

Let me go! LET ME GO! I'm gonna fucking
kill her!

She begins hammering her fists on Daniel's chest. Rupert and Kerry exchange nervous glances.

Phil once again lowers the camera. Rupert glares at him, and shakes his head just a little bit. Phil raises the camera once more.

DANIEL

No you're not! You're not gonna kill
anybody!

Sam begins crying hysterically. Her voice cracks as she screams at Daniel.

SAM

You bastard...how...how could you do
this to me?! I'm the mother of your
children!

DANIEL

You know what? Fine. You want to do
this? Fine. I love her. Yeah I said it,
I love her.

SAM

You *what*?

DANIEL

She takes care of me. She's there for
me. She *gets* me. Unlike you!

Sam blows her nose loudly. Rupert and Kerry begin to slowly back away from the argument.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

And that's why...that's why I want a
divorce.

SAM

You bastard...

DANIEL

And I'm taking the kids.

An incredulous look comes over Sam's face.

SAM

You're what? You're gonna take *my*
children? Where do you get-

DANIEL

Our children, honey. *Our* children.
And I'll take you to court if I have
to.

Sam stares at Daniel for a long moment, as if she's trying to figure out a particularly difficult math problem. She then throws her head back, laughing maniacally.

SAM

Oh yeah? How?! You don't have any money! You've been leeching off me for the last twelve years! Twelve *fucking* years spent providing for your sorry ass! Who in the *fuck* would ever give you custody of our...*my*...children!?

Daniel cocks his head with a grim smile toward Rupert and Kerry, who are standing awkwardly a few feet away. Sam follows his gaze, seeming to notice Rupert and Kerry for the first time. Not missing a beat, Rupert extends his hand out to Sam.

RUPERT

Hi, I'm Rupert Dillman, of Rupert and Kerry in the After-

SAM

Yeah. Yeah I know who you are. Hi. What...uh...what are you doing here?

Kerry chimes in.

KERRY

Oh it's our monthly "R & K in the A" sweepstakes, where one lucky viewer wins a check-

Sam snaps her head over at Kerry, and interrupts her.

SAM

The viewer of the month contest?

Kerry answers cheerfully.

KERRY

That's the one!

Kerry then quickly averts her gaze, clearly feeling awkward about her faux enthusiasm.

Sam looks confused.

SAM

We used to enter that contest together...

Daniel smiles smugly.

DANIEL

Yeah, but *I* won. I'm a rich man.

Sam glances pleadingly at Rupert and Kerry.

SAM
What the fuck!? Is this some kind of
fucking joke?!

DANIEL
It's no joke, *honey*. I'm taking the
children.

Sam looks at him, seeming to realize the gravity of the
situation. Her jaw drops.

SAM
You...you...

Suddenly, the sound of car doors closing can be heard behind Sam.
She turns around.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - DAY

ANDY, a young boy of about 8, and SARAH, a girl of about 12, are
standing huddled together by the minivan.

SARAH
Mom? What's happening?

SAM
Nothing sweetie! Just..get back in
the car hon!

DANIEL
Nonsense, come here children! Daddy
has something important he wants to
tell you!

EXT. FRONT PORCH - DAY

Sarah and Andy come running up to the porch. Sam shudders, as
if she's about to cry.

Daniel puts his hands on Sarah and Andy's shoulders, getting down
on one knee.

DANIEL
Now I want you to listen very
carefully for a second, ok? Mommy is
going to go away for a little while.
She's going on a...vacation. I want
you both to say goodbye to Mommy, and
then go inside. I'll fix you some
lunch. Ok?

SARAH
Where's she going?!

ANDY
(hysterically)

I don't want Mommy to go away!

Sarah and Andy run to their crying mother, grabbing on to her legs. She puts her arms around them and the trio begin sobbing together. Daniel shrugs his shoulders, a look on his face that says *whatever, I tried*.

Lacey walks out of the doorway, embracing Daniel. They begin making out.

Rupert glances at Kerry, who leans the large cardboard check against the side of the house. He points in a direction away from all the crying and kissing, and Kerry and Phil follow him as he walks there.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

Phil raises his camera.

RUPERT
We good?

Phil gives him the thumbs up. Rupert exhales loudly.

RUPERT (CONT'D)
Wow, I'll bet Mr. Reubens is never going to forget this day, don't you think Kerry?

Kerry smiles at Rupert. Sam and the children can be heard wailing in the background.

KERRY
Absolutely, Rupert. I don't think his life will ever be the same!

SAM
You ruined my life! You ruined my liiiiiife!

Rupert glances sideways at Sam, and then returns his attention to the camera.

RUPERT
We'd like to thank our wonderful viewers at home for tuning into this episode of *Rupert and Kerry in the Afternoon*, and once again congratulate our lucky viewer of the month, Mr. Sam Reubens, for winning our "R & K in the-"

Suddenly, the wailing stops. Then Sam's voice can be heard in the background, shouting like a lunatic.

SAM
What?! What did you say!?

Rupert attempts to continue talking to the camera.

RUPERT
-for winning our "R & K in the A-"

Sam runs up to his side, a desperate look on her face. Rupert is still facing the camera. He slowly turns to look at her.

SAM
Wait wait wait, did you say "Sam
Reubens!?"

EXT. FRONT PORCH - DAY

Daniel's eyes widen, as he is making out with Lacey. He stops, staring at Sam. Lacey continues to kiss him for a second longer, then, realizing he's stopped, also stops. She looks at Daniel.

LACEY
What's wrong?

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

Rupert sighs, his camera take ruined. He glances over at Sam, a slightly exasperated look on his face.

RUPERT
Yes, I said Sam Reubens...

EXT. FRONT PORCH - DAY

Daniel stares from the porch, wide-eyed, at Sam. She slowly turns her head to look at him, and starts laughing hysterically.

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

SAM
Ahahahahahahahahaha!

Rupert and Kerry glance at each other, confused.

RUPERT
Um...miss? I don't quite
understand...

Sam strides up to Rupert, grabs him by the sides of his face, and forcefully kisses him for a long beat. She then pulls back and extends out her hand. Rupert looks at her, shocked.

SAM
Misses Sam Reubens, pleased to meet
you.

Rupert looks at her incredulously as he slowly grasps and shakes her hand.

RUPERT
You're Sam Reubens?!

Sam smiles.

SAM
"Samantha," but I go by Sam, yeah.

Kerry chimes in.

KERRY
We thought that-

SAM
(laughing)
That I was a man? That I was *that* man?

She points at Daniel, still laughing.

KERRY
Well...yeah-

Sam interrupts her.

SAM
That *motherfucker* over there, is Daniel Reubens. *I*, am Sam Reubens.

Rupert steps forward, a look of sincere apology on his face.

RUPERT
Mrs. Reubens, we are *so* sorry for the confusion. Phil?

He motions to Phil.

RUPERT (CONT'D)
Grab the check for Mrs. Reubens, would you?

He looks back at Sam.

RUPERT (CONT'D)
Say, would you mind terribly if we got a quick take of you accepting the check?

Sam smiles.

SAM
Not at all, *Mr. Dillman*.

EXT. FRONT YARD - ONE MINUTE LATER

Sam stands smiling, with Sarah and Andy clutching the sides of her legs. They look up at her happily. Next to her are Rupert and Kerry, as Phil positions himself, camera on shoulder, to capture the shot. Kerry grasps the novelty check in her hands, on which we can now see the name "Sam Reubens" clearly printed.

Phil holds up his hand.

PHIL
Three...two...

He points at Rupert.

RUPERT
Welcome back. We're here at the lovely home of *Misses* Sam Reubens, the winner of our monthly "R & K in the A" sweepstakes! Well Kerry, why don't you show Mrs. Reubens what we've got for her...

Kerry poses with the check.

KERRY
Oh nothing special Rupert, just this check for one hundred thousand *dollars!*

Andy and Sarah start cheering, and jumping up and down. Rupert places his hand on Sam's shoulder.

RUPERT
Congratulations Mrs. Reubens, on behalf of all of us at *Rupert and Kerry in the Afternoon.*

Kerry hands Sam the check. Clutching it in her arms, Sam looks down at it, and simply smiles for a long moment. Andy and Sarah hug her legs.

KERRY
So Mrs. Reubens, what are you going to do now?

Sam looks up at Kerry, and smiles.

SAM
That reminds me...

Sam bends down on one knee, bring herself to eye level with Andy and Sarah.

SAM (CONT'D)
Mommy has to take care of something, ok? I want you both to get in the car, and put on Spongebob. Whatever you do,

you do not take your eyes off
Spongebob, got it?

ANDY
Yay! Spongebob!

SARAH
Spongebob is a little kid's show.

Sam looks sternly at Sarah.

SAM
Sarah, please take your brother into
the car and watch Spongebob. Now.

Sarah sighs.

SARAH
Whatever.

Sarah walks Andy over to the car. Sam watches intently as they get in the back seat. Once the car door shuts, she begins walking towards the porch of the house, clutching the novelty check in her hands.

Daniel and Lacey stand in front of the doorway, watching her approach. Daniel looks worried, and Lacey looks confused.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - DAY

Sam approaches Daniel, the novelty check in her hands. Daniel begins to back away slowly, holding his hands up as if someone was pointing a gun at him.

DANIEL
Baby...baby, I'm sorry! I made a
mistake, I-

Sam swings the check so that it slices through the air like a blade, hitting Daniel in the side of the face. Daniel recoils back, staggering. Sam follows like a tiger whose found its prey, slamming the novelty check down on his head repeatedly. It makes a dull thud each time it hits him.

SAM
Gonna take *my* children, huh? Who's a
fucking rich man *now*?! HUH?!

EXT. FRONT YARD - DAY

We see through Phil's lens as Rupert and Kerry watch Sam beating up the hapless Daniel, and then turn to face the camera. Sam is still visible in the background, swinging the novelty check. Rupert smiles good naturedly, and glances over at Kerry.

RUPERT

You know Kerry, it might be a little early to tell, but think this is a day that Mrs. Reubens is *never* going to forget.

KERRY

Right you are, Rupert!

RUPERT

Anyway, we'd like to thank our wonderful viewers at home for tuning into this episode *Rupert and Kerry in the Afternoon*, and once again congratulate our lucky viewer of the month, Misses Sam Reubens, for winning our "R & K in the A" sweepstakes!

In the background, Sam stops beating the cowering Daniel. She turns towards Lacey, who's backing away. Lacey turns to run, and Sam chases her, wielding the check high above her head menacingly.

SAM

(distantly)

Where do you think you're going you little slut?!

Rupert and Kerry don't seem to notice.

KERRY

(facing the camera)

Join us next time, when we show you how to turn all those pesky crab-apples and pinecones from your lawn into festive springtime potpourri!

Rupert puts his arm around Kerry's shoulder.

RUPERT

As always, I'm Rupert Dillman,

KERRY

And I'm Kerry Tipper,

Sam can still be seen chasing Lacey in the background.

RUPERT & KERRY

(in unison)

And we wish you a wonderful afternoon!

FIN