

SUMMON, SET, MATCH

Written by

A Hopeless Romantic

Based on the urban legend of Bloody Mary

Written for the October 2024 One Week Challenge

OVER BLACK:

MORRIS (V.O.)
Bloody Mary.
(beat)
Bloody Mary.
(hesitant beat)
...Bloody Mary?

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

A candle on the bathroom counter emanates light.

MORRIS (30s), dressed in nice clothes, waits in the dark bathroom as he looks at his reflection in the mirror.

After a moment, he SIGHS, disappointed.

MORRIS
(under his breath)
Stupid...

He turns on the bathroom light—

BLOODY MARY appears before him, covered in blood!

He YELPS.

BLOODY MARY
(sarcastic)
You called?

Morris stammers, stutters, and spits out his words.

MORRIS
Uh...yeah. I...I was wondering
if...you'd like to go on a date?

Bloody Mary stares at Morris in stunned silence, cocks her head a bit. Then, she CACKLES a LAUGH.

Morris gulps. Bloody Mary's laughing fades as she wipes a tear from her eye, before she glances back at him.

BLOODY MARY
Oh. You're being serious?

Morris looks down at his feet in shame.

Bloody Mary leans against the door and grins at him.

BLOODY MARY (CONT'D)
 So what's your plan, Romeo? Dinner
 in the tub?

(points at the candle)
 Romantic lighting courtesy of that
 sad little candle?

Morris shrugs.

MORRIS
 I dunno...I was thinking we could,
 uh...talk? Get to know each other?

BLOODY MARY
 In here?

Morris grins awkwardly.

BLOODY MARY (CONT'D)
 Sure, because nothing screams
 'romantic getaway' like toothpaste
 stains and a leaky faucet.

MORRIS
 I was gonna fix that...
 (waves thought away)
 Look, I just thought you might be
 tired of, you know, scaring people.
 Maybe you'd want to talk to
 someone...nice?

Bloody Mary SNORTS.

BLOODY MARY
 Nice? Oh, sweetheart, I don't do
 'nice.' I do 'terrifying.' I do
 'revenge.' But 'nice'? That's a new
 one.

Morris SIGHS. He closes the lid on the toilet, then sits
 down.

MORRIS
 You're right. What was I thinking?

BLOODY MARY
 So, what, you're just gonna give
 up? Just like that?

Morris looks at her. She smiles.

MORRIS
 I'm just...I'm so tired of being
 alone.

(MORE)

MORRIS (CONT'D)

Even if it's just one night, I thought maybe...we could talk? You seem...interesting. Plus, the blood really brings out your...eyes?

BLOODY MARY

You're really scraping the bottom of the barrel if you're calling on a murder-ghost for love, you know that, right?

MORRIS

I mean, the dating pool is rough out there. I figured I'd try a different pool. Like, the afterlife.

BLOODY MARY

Well, I gotta admit, nobody's ever asked me to stay for a chat, let alone a date. It gets pretty lonely being trapped in mirrors after nearly a dozen centuries.

MORRIS

How'd you end up stuck in a mirror for eternity? Ex-boyfriend drama?

Bloody Mary rolls her eyes.

BLOODY MARY

Puh-lease. Try being accused of witchcraft and getting murdered for it. Then, when I finally get a little revenge, it's all 'Oh no! Bloody Mary's going to kill us!' Like, I'm the bad guy here?

Morris nods.

MORRIS

Yeah, people can be the worst. Like, this one time, I went on a first date with a girl, and all we did was watch her cat's ultrasound video.

BLOODY MARY

See, you get it!

The two sit there awkwardly.

BLOODY MARY

Well, it's been real, but I've got mirrors to haunt and people to terrify. You know how it is.

Morris smiles.

MORRIS

Thanks for...not killing me, I guess.

BLOODY MARY

It's not every day I get asked on a date. Especially in a bathroom. You've got guts, I'll give you that.

MORRIS

Do you think...we could do this again sometime?

BLOODY MARY

Don't push your luck, Romeo. But, you know where to find me.

She winks, then blows out the candle and the bathroom light goes out.

A second later, Morris turns the light back on. Bloody Mary is nowhere to be found.

He looks at the mirror, then leans against the sink, grinning like a fool. With a small chuckle and the shake of his head--

MORRIS

Best date I've had in years.

He walks out of the bathroom and shuts off the light.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END