

Second Look

by

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Cast of Characters

CHER:

Mid 40's

LEA:

Mid 40's

Place

Restaurant

Time

Daytime

Setting: Restaurant. Day.

At Rise: Cher and Lea sit at a table together eating and drinking.

LEA: It gets hard sometimes because Michael gets jealous when other men look at me.

CHER: Still? That's silly.

LEA: I know. I tell him to grow up but he gets so jealous. Like a sad little boy.

CHER: Ha Ha, I can't picture Michael as a sad little boy.

LEA: Oh, forget it, he really goes for it.

CHER: Does he?

LEA: He pouts. So ridiculous. It's not my fault if I still look good.

CHER: Oh, you look beautiful, you have always taken good care of yourself.

LEA: Thanks, Chica, I try.

CHER: I don't get that kind of attention. Maybe it's a good thing, I don't know.

LEA: You're better off, believe me.

CHER: Yeah, well, it's nice to feel wanted. Not saying Jimmy doesn't make me feel loved.

LEA: Oh, Jimmy loves you so much.

CHER: Is it wrong for me to seek attention?

LEA: What do you mean?

CHER: From another man, or men, just guys in general. I'm not saying it isn't about me and Jimmy, you know I love Jimmy with all my heart, I'm only saying is it wrong to seek out attention from other men?

LEA: Like having guys be into you?

CHER: I can care less about other men. What I'm saying is...is it wrong for me, for my own self and being, to feel like I'm still pretty when another man looks at me?

LEA: I don't think it's wrong but I also don't think it's that important.

CHER: It's nice to get a compliment from time to time or get looked at in a charming manner from a stranger. Don't you think?

LEA: Believe me, I rather the looks and sneers vanished altogether.

CHER: Be careful what you wish for, Lea. If the attention you receive when you go out suddenly disappeared, do you think it would bother you?

LEA: ...If I'm being honest, maybe a little.

CHER: Thank you. That's what I'm saying.

LEA: Don't you feel you get noticed?

CHER: It hasn't happened for quite some time. I was thinking about this all day and it must have been years since I've ever felt that feeling...you know? When a man looks at you, looks away and then takes that second look. It's the second look that validates something for me as a woman. I'm not trying to say that I need a man to salivate over me or anything like that...it's only that I haven't gotten that second look in quite awhile and I'm beginning to feel a bit inadequate.

Even on a lousy looking day I used to catch a second look, nowadays I'm lucky I even get a first look. Hmm. Can I asked you something? (beat) Have my looks, changed? (beat) Am I not as attractive as I used to be? Wait! Don't answer me, don't answer my question! It's all just too much, really.

(she stands up abruptly and grabs her drink)

I'm alright. I just don't know. I'm not looking for comfort or consolation. (nervous chuckle) I just want to know if I still appeal to men. Is that so wrong? Not in the sense in a, in a, in an intellectual way but more in an attractive way, you know...that would be nice, to know, if I can still turn a man on. If, in fact, if a man is actually still interested in me that way.

That's all...

LEA: I love you and I think you're as beautiful as they come.

CHER: Awww, I love you too, sweetheart.

LEA: I think that maybe your reacton time isn't what it used to be.

CHER: How so?

LEA: Your glance detector is off. I guarantee you that when a man gives you that first and second look, you don't even notice it.

CHER: You think?

LEA: Of course! When we were driving over here and stopped at one of the red lights, there were two men checking you out.

CHER: No way!

LEA: I swear! They were drooling over you.

CHER: Oh stop! They were obviously staring and drooling over you, Lea.

LEA: Cher, they were looking directly at the driver...YOU. Both men. They were glued and when you innocently looked over, they both quickly looked straight and continued driving. You didn't even notice.

CHER: Why didn't you say anything to me?

LEA: I didn't think anything of it, really. Had I known what I know now I would have told you as it was happening.

CHER: You're not making this up?

LEA: Cher, I would never lie or joke about how hot you are.

(both women laugh)

CHER: Hot is making it a bit much. All I'm asking for is a touch of attraction, a glance, a wink, just to confirm I'm not an old hag. (beat) Lea?

LEA: Yes, dear.

CHER: I'm afraid of getting old.

LEA: Are you? Since when?

CHER: Some days, when I'm getting ready in the morning, I'll be getting dressed and catch a glimpse of myself in the mirror and I don't recognize myself. I'll find myself getting ready, putting on makeup, fixing my hair, trying not to change. It keeps getting harder and harder, not to change.

LEA: Change is good. If I still looked sixteen I'd shoot myself.

CHER: Yeah, but, it feels like yesterday I was twenty-five and now---

LEA: Don't say it.

CHER: You know what I mean. Do you ever feel that way? Ever?

LEA: Can I let you in on a little secret?

CHER: Sure.

LEA: I have always, always, always thought of you as the better looking one out of the two of us. Like today, for instance. We have this lunch all planned together and everything and all week I'm worried that I won't look half as good as you. Honestly.

CHER: But why?

LEA: Because you are a natural beauty. I have to work double time. I go to the salons, get my creams, go for this, go for that but you, you're always the same without trying to do anything.

CHER: (humorously) Thanks.

LEA: What I mean is that you don't have to try to be pretty, you just are. Yes, you've changed, we all change but the way you've changed is graceful. Does that make any sense?

CHER: Sort of.

LEA: In the past you were cute and pretty but now you are mature and sexy. Mature makes you sexier. And if you don't think you are getting as many stares as you used to, it's only because you are even more intimidating and men are really working to hide their glances at you.

CHER: Well, since you've put it all that way, I'll be buying lunch.

(both women laugh)

LEA: Don't give it any more attention. Not to where it depresses you.

CHER: You're right.

LEA: Besides, Jimmy is the one you need to worry about. As long as he loves you and thinks you are the most beautiful woman in the world, you have nothing to worry about.

CHER: Right.

LEA: The next guy I catch sneaking a look at you, I will be quick to tell you.

CHER: Ha, ha. Yeah, your glance detector is sharper compared to mine. Ha, ha.

LEA: You are fine.

CHER: Thanks, Lea.

LEA: No need to thank me. The truth is the truth. I'm just pointing out the facts.

END OF PLAY