

# ***Kick in the Pants***

*by*

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Cast of Characters

ROSE: 34

MARVIN: 38

Place

Diner

Time

9:00 AM

Setting: A small diner designed as a throwback to the 1950's.

At Rise: Marvin sits obediently in his booth, while Rose walks over, holding a pot of coffee.

**MARVIN:** How are ya doing this fine mornin', Rose?

**ROSE:** Hey, Marvin.

**MARVIN:** You're looking radiant as usual.

**ROSE:** Coffee, black?

**MARVIN:** You guessed it.

*Rose pours him coffee.*

**ROSE:** Are we eating this morning?

**MARVIN:** Absolutely.

**ROSE:** The usual?

**MARVIN:** Yes, please.

*Rose walks off.*

Rose?

**ROSE:** Yeah.

**MARVIN:** Rose...could you sit down for a minute?

**ROSE:** What for?

**MARVIN:** I've got something I have to tell ya...

**ROSE:** Why do I have to sit for you to tell me?

**MARVIN:** It's probably best.

*Rose sits.*

**ROSE (sarcastic):** ...I'm sitting.

**MARVIN:** I kinda get the feelin' you don't like me very much.

**ROSE:** And what gave you that idea?

**MARVIN:** I come in here each mornin', for months, all on account of seein' ya. Didn't ya know that?

**ROSE:** I know that.

**MARVIN:** And I wanted to ask ya – you know that??

**ROSE:** You've asked me out a billion times, Marv.

**MARVIN:** Why is it that you don't like me back?

**ROSE:** I never said, “I didn't like you”!

**MARVIN:** Yes, but, let's be frank, it's kind of hard not to spot.

**ROSE:** Did you want toast with your----

**MARVIN:** Rose, please...tell me. What's it about me exactly that turns you off?

**ROSE:** You're grouchy.

**MARVIN:** Me?

**ROSE:** Yep.

**MARVIN:** I don't think I've ever been rude to you.

**ROSE:** Not to me.

**MARVIN:** I'm confused.

**ROSE:** You, as a person. I could tell. You're a born grouch. You may come in here and smile, act all polite, speak with a soft voice, but deep down I know for certain you're a grouch. It's in the eyes. I've stared at you from different angles, not that I'm interested in you, but staring by way of proving my hunch, that you're a grouch.

The way you read your newspaper, for instance. So intense, it's *too* intense. The way you tune everyone else out, entirely. The way you get up to go to the bathroom even, or to get into your car. There's a heaviness in you Marv. You bring the whole world down with you. The way you move, it's just so damn heaaaavy.

Yes, you're all smiles at me, but that's because there's an agenda and your agenda is to get me under your sheets, which, *to be frank*, Marv, I couldn't be any less interested in.

It's a deliberate charm, your cologne, your gestures...all put on. I see the real you though, and it ain't nothin' like this whole show you've got goin' on.

**MARVIN:** That's quite a mouth full.

**ROSE:** Was it?

**MARVIN:** But you admitted somethin', didn't you?

**ROSE:** What did I admit, Marv?

**MARVIN:** That ya stare at me.

**ROSE:** That's cause---

**MARVIN:** No, no, no, no, no, let me finish now. The fact that you have taken the time on multiple occasions to suss me out an' pierce into the very inner workings of my soul...that, my dear, is *proof*.

**ROSE:** Proof, of what?

**MARVIN:** That I've a chance.

**ROSE:** Chance? A chance? A chance for what, exactly?

**MARVIN:** A chance at romancin' with ya.

**ROSE:** Ha, ha, ha. Romance? Ha! There's a better chance I'll slip in the kitchen and die.

**MARVIN:** You shouldn't say such things, Rose. Those kinda sayings don't suit a true Rose like you.

**ROSE:** It's true.

**MARVIN:** Rose? Can I take you dancin' this evening?

**ROSE:** Marvin, listen to me clearly, there is no way in hell that I am ever going out with you, anywhere on planet Earth.

**MARVIN:** You like Italian, right?

**ROSE:** How do you know I like Italian?

**MARVIN:** Been comin' here long enough. It's hard not to get the gist of some of the conversations you have with your other customers.

**ROSE:** Your eavesdropping on me?

**MARVIN:** It's a small diner.

**ROSE:** Not that small.

**MARVIN:** I know a lovely little Italian restaurant not far from the ocean, in a wonderful suburban town out on long island. It's a beautiful drive. Not too long, not too short. We'll get to talk, listen to jazz...I know ya love jazz and we can sit at my usual table there. Wait till you try this place Rose. The food is exquisite. The kinda food that real chefs make, melts in your mouth, an' ya never feel sick after it, only content and light. Afterwards, we can dance and I can tell ya how beautiful I think you really are, an' how, how lucky of a man I am for havin' the opportunity just to spend one evenin' with ya!

**ROSE:** Why aren't you married?

**MARVIN:** I was...

**ROSE:** You *were*?

**MARVIN:** Well, yes I was...I am.

**ROSE (frustrated):** You *are*?

**MARVIN:** I mean, she's not here anymore in the physical sense but she's still my wife. She passed away but – (*getting emotional*) she's with me all the time.

**ROSE:** ...Sorry. Gosh Marv, that's so sad. I didn't mean---

**MARVIN:** That's alright. Her name was Linda, ain't that a beautiful name? Just like yours, Rose is just as beautiful a name! You would've liked Linda...everyone loved her, guess there were some who were jealous of her, you can't walk around being a beautiful woman without some jealousy attached to it all!...Ahh, just the sound of – it's kinda hard sayin' her name anymore, guess you could say I've been a bit lost without her ever since.

**ROSE:** ...What did she---

**MARVIN:** Don't ask – freak accident. Went skiing...didn't end well.

**ROSE:** Oh, that's really terrible.

**MARVIN:** Been two years.

**ROSE:** I'm sorry...

**MARVIN:** Rose, I know I'm not the greatest looking picture, maybe I do come off a bit strange or angry as you claim, but I'm an easygoing man, I really love livin' sometimes an' I'm just someone who simply wishes to get to know ya better.

**ROSE:** If you're guiltin' me with the whole – that's---

**MARVIN:** No, no, no, please, I'm not, I weren't the one who brought that up, I mean –

**ROSE:** Why me?

**MARVIN:** What?

**ROSE:** Why *me*, Marv?

**MARVIN:** Why not you?

**ROSE:** What's so special 'bout me?

**MARVIN:** Oh, you're the sweetest, kindest, rudest person I ever met. There's a truth in you, you hold no punches, it's refreshin' and boy do I need a good kick in the pants every now and again.

**ROSE:** Why should I say yes, Marv? I have no interest in you, whatsoever.

**MARVIN:** Love is blind.

**ROSE:** Good one.

**MARVIN:** I'm not askin' for marriage.

**ROSE:** I hope not.

**MARVIN:** I'm asking to take ya out for dinner, spend a few hours with me, get treated the way I know you deserve to be treated...that's all...no strings attached.

**ROSE:** Not tonight. Let me sleep on it.

**MARVIN:** Really?!

**ROSE:** Let's not overreact or you'll get a flat out no, right now.

**MARVIN:** Can I sit here in shock?

**ROSE** (*warning*): Marvin...

*Marvin nods.*

*Rose goes to put in Marvin's breakfast order.*

**CURTAIN**