

Boom Op Love Story

written by

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INT. - MORNING ON SET

LAURETTE, a 26-year-old, b-list actress, can be heard in the back of a black screen. She is playing the character of Bessy. Black flickers to the scene.

LAURETTE:

(Dramatic/As Bessy)

But I know he will! He always comes back! Daddy wouldn't leave us now. The sky would turn black without him here. He's our sun on a dark, cloudy day. He's the lantern all the flies flock to! He's...he's...he's "loomissy"-

DIRECTOR:

(Yelling)

Cut! Cut! Cut! Are you fucking kidding me?! Loomissy? It's "luminescent"! You're worthless, Bessy.

LAURETTE:

(Hesitant)

My real name is actually Laurette...

DIRECTOR:

Oh I don't give a damn! Maybe if your name was talent, you'd have some. Sound! Any notes?

JOSIE:

(Intimidated)

Um, all good over here.

DIRECTOR:

At least somebody is doing something right.

VENUS, a beautiful A-list celebrity, walks through the door with a smile and wave. JOSIE, the boom operator of the set, looks starstruck as she watches her enter.

DIRECTOR: (CONT'D)

(Kissing Venus on the cheeks)

Oh thank god! My Venus darling! Please save this godforsaken film.

VENUS:

Hey guys! Sorry I'm late. Swarm of paparazzi out there.

VENUS takes her place next to LAURETTE. JOSIE slowly gets closer to VENUS with the boom.

DIRECTOR:

Okay! Let's take it from the top people! Quiet on set! Sound?

JOSIE:

Speeding.

DIRECTOR:

Camera?

EXTRA (CAMERA OP):

Rolling.

DIRECTOR:

Settle...action.

LAURETTE:

(Dramatic/As Bessy)

But I know he will! He always comes back! Daddy wouldn't leave us now. The sky would turn black without him here. He's our sun on a dark, cloudy day. He's the lantern all the flies flock to! He's...luminescent.

VENUS:

(As Dandy)

Stop it, Bessy. He's gone. He didn't love us before and he doesn't love us now. You just need to accept that. He gave everyone his love except for us!

The audio tunes out as the camera narrows in on JOSIE and her starstruck face.

INT. - LATER ON SET

JOSIE is packing up all of her sound equipment for the day. No one else is on set. VENUS approaches her.

VENUS:

Hey.

JOSIE:

(Startled)

Oh! Hey, sorry. Am I in your way?

VENUS:

No, not at all. You're not scared of me are you?

JOSIE:

Oh...no. Of course not. How can I help you?

VENUS:

I've always been curious about all this sound stuff. I was wondering if you could maybe teach me a thing or two about it?

JOSIE:

(Looking around confused)
Sure...I guess. You don't have anywhere else to be? No paparazzi to pose for?

VENUS:

No. It's nice and quiet in here. I prefer that. Now are you gonna show me or what?

JOSIE:

Sure...but like you said, it's nice and quiet in here. It won't make for good sound. I'll show you some better places.

EXT. - ALLEY WAY - MOMENTS LATER

JOSIE and VENUS are crouched down with the boom set out. They record a bunch of different sounds and try to secretly get sounds of people walking past.

JOSIE:

Ok so the key is, you can't move the mic. Or else you'll pick up other sounds.

VENUS:

Well, duh.

JOSIE:

(laughing)
Hey! I thought you wanted to learn about this stuff!

VENUS:

I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I do. But this is boring. Why can't we record random people's conversations?

JOSIE:

Because that's illegal.

VENUS:

Oh come on! I'm Venus Armani. I doubt they'll care if they see me recording.

JOSIE:

Humble, huh?

VENUS:

More than you know, actually.

JOSIE:

Fine. But we can not get caught. Take the pole and put it out as far as you can, but not so they can see.

VENUS:

Yes! Ok thank you, thank you.

VENUS slides the boom slightly out of the alleyway. Different people's conversations are picked up. VENUS and JOSIE laugh at some, are scared at others, and are skeptical about some. VENUS ends up accidentally hitting a man on the head with the pole when she tries to stick it out too far. The man looks at them angrily.

JOSIE:

Shit! We gotta go, Venus. Run!

They run away with the equipment, giggling.

INT. - NIGHT AT JOSIE'S APARTMENT

JOSIE and VENUS enter through the door giggling and talking.

JOSIE:

You literally hit that man in the head!

VENUS:

I didn't realize! That boom is huge.

JOSIE:

Yeah, they can be pretty hard to maneuver sometimes. But you did a good job.

They sit down on the couch together.

VENUS:

If you say so.

(beat.)

JOSIE:

So what got you into acting?

VENUS:

Well, it's not the happiest story.

JOSIE:

That's okay. I wanna hear.

VENUS:

Well I was bullied quite a lot growing up. By my family, by my friends, by everyone. Mostly for my looks. I guess I looked kinda weird growing up...I was really insecure. But when I watched the beautiful stars on the TV, I knew that's exactly what I wanted to be. I figured that the TV could make you magically beautiful or something. By the time I realized that was a silly, childhood fantasy, I figured out I sorta had a gift of acting.

JOSIE:

I can't believe that happened to you. At least you know you're beautiful now.

VENUS:

I never said that.

JOSIE:

Have you seen yourself?

VENUS:

Unfortunately.

JOSIE:

What? I'm in awe every time you walk on set.

The tension closes in on them and they exchange a few romantic glances. JOSIE gets nervous, retracts from their closeness, and gets up.

JOSIE: (CONT'D)
But so is everyone else. Would you
wanna dance with me?

VENUS:
Not a big dancer, but for you I'll
try.

JOSIE turns on the speaker and "Soup" by LazyLazy plays. They slowly start moving around one another and get into a steady groove. As the song progresses, their faces get closer and they almost kiss. VENUS' phone rings, interrupting them.

VENUS: (CONT'D)
Hello?

Camera focuses on JOSIE as VENUS has an off camera conversation with the other person on the phone. She eventually hangs up.

VENUS: (CONT'D)
Ok yeah. I'll be right there.

She hangs up and walks back over to JOSIE. She grabs her things.

VENUS: (CONT'D)
Hey...sorry Josie. I gotta head
out.

JOSIE:
How come?

VENUS:
My agent wants me to go to this
party.

JOSIE:
Your agent does? Or you do?

VENUS:
(skeptical)
My agent?...

JOSIE:
Do you not have your own free will?

VENUS:
Why are you upset?

JOSIE:

Because you're just like every other snobby, self-absorbed, counterfeit celebrity. You know, we had a good day today. A day that you asked to spend with me and now you're ready to ditch me for some party? Whatever.

VENUS:

Wow. So the truth is revealed. Bye, Josie.

JOSIE:

Wait!

VENUS hastily walks out of the apartment. JOSIE is upset with herself.

INT. MORNING ON SET

JOSIE, clearly not in a chipper mood, is leaning on her boom pole, while the director talks with other members of the crew. JOSIE keeps looking at the door, waiting for VENUS to walk in. She finally does and JOSIE immediately looks away.

DIRECTOR:

Let's get this shit show on the road people! 10 minutes left for set-up!

JOSIE hesitantly walks over to VENUS while she is getting ready.

JOSIE:

Hey...Venus.

VENUS:

(distracted)

Hi, Josie. Surprised you wanna talk with such a snobby, counterfeit celebrity.

JOSIE:

Look, I'm really sorry about that. You opened up to me and I slapped a stereotype on you that isn't even true. You were just doing what your agent told you to do.

VENUS:

Yeah, well...I didn't even end up going anyways.

JOSIE:
What? Why not?

VENUS:
Believe it or not, I have feelings.
And you really hurt them.

JOSIE:
I know and I'm sorry. I think I
just felt insecure.

VENUS:
Insecure about what?

JOSIE:
I thought we were on a date or
something and then I snapped back
into reality and remembered that
you would never date someone like
me.

VENUS gets up and kisses JOSIE for a while. VENUS finally
pulls away and continues getting ready. JOSIE is shocked and
has red lipstick all over her lips.

VENUS:
I don't care about all the other
bullshit; fame, money, how many
movies you've been in. I just like
you. And I feel like you can see
me, the real me. Unlike most
people...

JOSIE:
Oh, Venus. Please forgive me. I
like you so much.

VENUS:
That makes two of us. And fine, but
only on one condition.

JOSIE:
Anything.

VENUS:
You let me use the boom on some of
Laurette's lines today.

JOSIE:
You're gonna get me fired today.

DIRECTOR:
0 for setup! Venus! Get your
beautiful self over here!

VENUS:

Gotta go.

VENUS kisses JOSIE once more and walks to set. She turns around and blows her a kiss. JOSIE is still in shock.

JOSIE:

(to camera)

Well, I hope you learned a valuable lesson today, kids. Boom operators have a chance with super hot movie stars.

DIRECTOR:

(off screen)

God damn it, Josie! If you don't get your lazy, slow ass over to your position I'm gonna stick that boom pole right up your-

JOSIE:

(up close to boom mic)

BYE!!