

FIREBALL

Written by

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EXT. - TRADEWINDS PARK - SWING SET

A couple of joggers run past the swing set. JOHNNY, 30's, in a T-shirt and jeans, sits on a swing.

Johnny checks his phone to reveal his calendar alert.

INSERT - CALENDAR ALERT, which reads:

"Tradewinds with Rena"

Johnny closes his phone and looks up to see RENA, 30's, messy hair and business casual, rushes towards him. Johnny gets up and gives Rena a hug. They sit on adjacent swings.

JOHNNY

I thought I was late.

RENA

No. My friend, Stephanie, was late picking up the kids from my house. I tried to call you.

Johnny holds up his phone.

JOHNNY

No missed calls.

RENA

Well you can't trust your phone.

JOHNNY

I was kidding.

Rena puts her hair into a ponytail.

RENA

Did you finish your assignment?.

JOHNNY

It was a really long night. I was blocked. I don't know art...

Rena looks at Johnny and chuckles.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

...This teacher wants us to write a story based on an art heist 30 years ago.

RENA

Thought you liked challenges?

JOHNNY

I like you, that's a challenge
enough.

Rena rolls her eyes.

RENA

J, I'm not happy here.

Rena's face sobers up to face Johnny.

RENA (CONT'D)

My mom drives me crazy. My friends
are few and not dependable. My kids
are a mess. I need help.

JOHNNY

You have help.

RENA

I can't ask you to help me.

Rena walks past Johnny.

EXT. TRADEWINDS PARK - WALKING PATH

Johnny follows Rena onto the path.

JOHNNY

What frustrates me the most about
this is you won't even give me a
chance.

RENA

I can't risk that.

JOHNNY

Risk what?

RENA

We'd kill each other. You can't
stand me sometimes.

Johnny smiles.

JOHNNY

You're exaggerating. You get on my
nerves but that's our normal.

Rena laughs.

RENA

Remember my cousin's wedding? You couldn't last a night in a hotel with the kids and a 4 hour wedding.

JOHNNY

Whoa, wait a minute. Who was the one freaking out chasing the girls during the reception?

They both laugh.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Not to mention the 4 hour drive back here. Who was passed out in the car while drove back?

RENA

Yeah you drove back while taking pictures of me and the girls passed out in the car.

JOHNNY

That was hilarious. I sent that to everyone on Facebook.

Rena's phone BUZZES, Rena looks at it to find a text from her mom.

RENA

Well mom knows now.

JOHNNY

Angel didn't waste time.

RENA

Yeah I've got to be heading back. Mom wants to talk about this. We're going get into it, because she's going to be all like I'm taking her grandchildren and--

Johnny puts his finger over her lips as if to silence her.

JOHNNY

No. I'm not going to let you do this.

RENA

What do you mean?

JOHNNY

Listen, I talked to my friend Tye. They have an opening at her mortgage brokers office. I told her you had customer service experience.

RENA

Seriously? When did you do that?

Johnny grabs his phone to check a text, then puts it away.

JOHNNY

I did this a week ago, but I haven't spoken to you since we went to The Cue last. It pays much better than where you are. It has benefits.

RENA

Where is it? You know my van is comatose most days. What am I going to do about day care?

JOHNNY

Tye takes her kids to the same place her sister in law takes hers. They'll work with you.

Johnny hands her a business card for the daycare. Rena takes the card and looks at it.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

They're expecting your call.

Rena looks up at Johnny, puts the card in her purse.

RENA

I really don't know what to say. I already told my sister I would go.

Johnny pulls out a shot glass to show Rena.

JOHNNY

Do you know what this is?

RENA

It's a shot glass, dummy.

JOHNNY

Obviously. It's not just any shot glass.

Johnny looks at the glass intently and starts to cry.

RENA

J.

JOHNNY

This is the shot glass from the first night we went to the Q. It was our psuedo date but not.

RENA

The night I met Roger and Norma.

Rena wipes the tear from his eye.

JOHNNY

Right. We were just friends. I wanted you to meet my friends. I know it wasn't a date, but-

RENA

I pretended it was too.

Johnny looks at Rena with love in his eyes.

JOHNNY

This whole time Rena. You, your kids, your friends. I've just been trying to get you to realize that I've been here! I've been right here. Always.

Rena starts to well up and starts to walk away. Johnny catches her arm before she can and turns her back towards him.

RENA

J. Please, I can't. If something happens to us and we become nothing. What happens then?

JOHNNY

We could never be nothing, Red. You're the Trinity to my Neo. The Tifa to my Cloud.

Johnny gets down on one knee, pulls out a diamond studded ring.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

We have been friends forever. I have never loved anyone the way I love you.

Rena cries.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

You have seen at my worst. You gave me the strength to chase my dreams.

Rena wipes a tear from her eye.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I want the girls to jump into our bed and wake us up in the morning for breakfast. I want to give you the lives you deserve.

Johnny opens the box.

RENA

Oh my God, this is happening.

JOHNNY

Rena Lynn Calderero. Will you marry me?

Rena nods vigorously

RENA

Yes, yes. Yes I will. I love you so much.

Rena and Johnny kiss. He picks her up and spins her in the air. They hold hands and walk down the path.