

*Brenda's
Valentine's Day Surprise*



presented by the ladies at
**EXBOYFRIEND
JEWELRY.COM**

This is Brenda.

BRENDA IS YOUR AVERAGE, EVERYDAY, THIRTY-SOMETHING, CAREER GAL. SHE'S HOPEFUL, HAPPY AND LOOKING FOR LOVE. SHE'S NOT WORRIED. SHE'S GOT IT GOING ON. SHE MADE A VISION BOARD OF MR. RIGHT SO SHE KNOWS HE'S ON HIS WAY. SHE CAN PICTURE HIM. IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME.





These are Brenda's girlfriends.

BRENDA HAS LOTS OF GOOD FRIENDS. THEY KNOW SHE'S A CATCH. SHE LOVES ANIMALS. SHE SENDS THANK YOU NOTES. SHE REMINDS THEM REGULARLY THAT SHE'S ASKED THE UNIVERSE TO SEND HER MR. RIGHT AND NEEDS THEIR POSITIVE SUPPORT.

SOMETIMES THEY HOOK HER UP AND BRENDA GOES OUT ON BLIND DATES. SOMETIMES IT'S THE FIRST DATE SHE'S HAD IN A LONG TIME. SOMETIMES HER FRIENDS CROSS THEIR FINGERS AND HOPE IT GOES WELL. THEY COULD USE A LITTLE MORE FREE TIME.

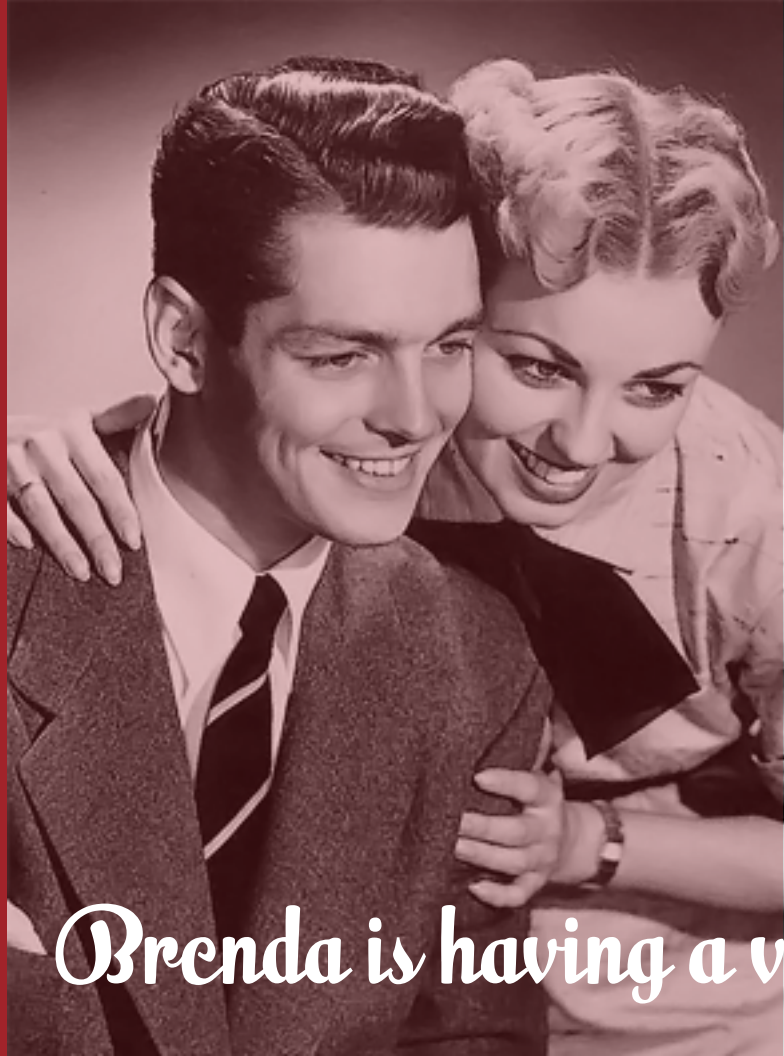


This is Louis.

LOUIS IS YOUR AVERAGE, EVERYDAY, THIRTY-SOMETHING, CAREER GUY. HE'S DASHING, DEBONAIR AND LOOKS LIKE FUN. HE'S JUST THE GUY YOU WOULD WANT YOUR FRIENDS TO SET YOU UP WITH ON A BLIND DATE. HE'S GOT IT GOING ON.

A vintage photograph of a smiling couple in a car, overlaid with a red tint. The woman is in the driver's seat, and the man is in the passenger seat, wearing a hat. The text "Tonight is Brenda's date." is written in a white, cursive font across the middle of the image, with a decorative flourish below it.

Tonight is Brenda's date.



LOUIS ARRIVES ON TIME. BRENDA STARTS A MENTAL CHECK LIST:

1. HE'S PUNCTUAL. THAT'S NICE.

HE TAKES HER TO A LOVELY RESTAURANT

2. HE HAS GOOD TASTE.

LOUIS HELPS BRENDA WITH HER CHAIR BUT DOESN'T ORDER FOR HER.

3. POLITE.

4. NOT OVER BEARING.

THINGS ARE REALLY SHAPING UP FOR BRENDA. THEY TALK OVER DINNER (BUT NEVER WITH HIS MOUTH FULL).

5. NOT A PIG.

HE TELLS HER A STORY ABOUT A FUNNY THING THAT HAPPENED ON HIS WAY HOME FROM WORK. SHE'S LAUGHS.

6. GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR.

7. EMPLOYED.

Brenda is having a very nice time. Brenda likes Louis.

DINNER IS OVER. THEY STROLL THROUGH THE PARK.

8. ROMANTIC.

LOUIS BUYS THEM EACH AN ICE CREAM CONE AND WALKS
BRENDA HOME.

9. SPONTANEOUS.

10. A GENTLEMAN.

AT THE END OF THE NIGHT, BRENDA CASUALLY MENTIONS
IT'S ONLY A COUPLE OF WEEKS UNTIL VALENTINE'S DAY.



LOUIS SMILES A KNOWING SMILE, KISSES
BRENDA GOODNIGHT AND TELLS HER HE'LL
CALL HER SOMETIME NEXT WEEK.
BRENDA SIGHS. THIS WAS A PERFECT DATE.
SHE SMILES AND THINKS,

“Golly. That could be the man I marry.”



It is
the end
of the week.

LOUIS HASN'T CALLED...

BRENDA HAS A DRINK.

"IT'S ODD THAT HE HASN'T
CALLED," SHE THINKS.
"WE HAD A LOVELY TIME."





BRENDA HAS ANOTHER DRINK AND DECIDES TO TEXT LOUIS.
A TEXT COULDN'T HURT.

LOUIS DOESN'T TEXT BACK.
BRENDA HAS ANOTHER DRINK AND TRIES AGAIN.

ANOTHER DRINK, ANOTHER TEXT.

ANOTHER TEXT, ANOTHER DRINK.

AND SO ON, AND SO ON, **AND SO ON,**



and so on...



BRENDA WAKES UP AT DAWN WITH A BOTTLE PLASTERED TO HER FACE.

SHE NEEDS TO CHECK HER PHONE! SHE NEEDS TO **FIND** HER PHONE. BRENDA NEEDS COFFEE. SHE PULLS HERSELF TOGETHER, STUMBLES TOWARDS THE KITCHEN AND TRIPS ON HER CELL PHONE.

37 TEXTS SENT... 0 RECEIVED. BRENDA WANTS TO DIE.

It's a tough week for Brenda.

THERE ARE NO HITS ON HER MATCH.COM PROFILE AND STILL NO TEXT FROM LOUIS.

LOUIS HASN'T CALLED. LOUIS HASN'T EMAILED. LOUIS HASN'T CONFIRMED HER FACEBOOK REQUEST. LOUIS HAS MADE NO EFFORT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH BRENDA **WHAT-SO-EVER**. SO, BRENDA DECIDES TO TAKE THE BULL BY THE HORNS...





SHE CALLS LOUIS!

SHE DIALS. SHE HOLDS HER BREATH. SHE GETS HIS VOICEMAIL. BRENDA PANICS. SHE HANGS UP!

“OH NO! I’VE BLOWN IT. I’VE TEXTED AND TEXTED AND TEXTED AND NOW I’VE CALLED AND HUNG UP! DAMN YOU, CALLER ID! I’M NOT FOLLOWING ANY OF “THE RULES.” MY MOTHER WILL BE SO DISAPPOINTED.”



BRENDA STARTS TO CRY.

Valentine's Day Is Here At Last!

IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS, BRENDA DOESN'T HAVE A DATE. SHE WANTS TO CRAWL INTO BED AND DIE! BUT, SHE SUCKS IT UP AND DECIDES TO JOIN HER SINGLE GIRLFRIENDS FOR COCKTAILS. SHE PUTS ON HER FAVORITE DRESS AND MEETS THEM AT HER FAVORITE BAR.

FUN, RIGHT? RIGHT?!

THE GIRLS ARE HAPPY TO SEE BRENDA. THEY GUSH OVER HER FAVORITE DRESS. THEY WANT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT LOUIS! BRENDA TAKES A DEEP BREATH, THEN...."I BLEW IT! HE NEVER CALLED AND I GOT ALL NEEDY AND....AND....HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO ME!" BRENDA REGALES THEM WITH HER STORY AND WHEN SHE IS DONE, THE GIRLS ASSURE HER THAT "MEN SUCK!" THEY ALL DRINK TO THAT. THEY TELL HER "SHE CAN DO BETTER ANYWAY." THEY ALL DRINK TO THAT.



BRENDA THANKS THEM FOR THEIR SUPPORT, BUT DEEP DOWN SHE KNOWS SHE'S SEEN THE TRUTH. AS THE GIRLS CHIRP AWAY ABOUT THIS FAILED RELATIONSHIP AND THAT BAD DATE, BRENDA SILENTLY MAKES A NEW LIFE PLAN. SHE DOESN'T NEED A MAN IN HER LIFE TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT HERSELF; SHE DOESN'T NEED TO DRINK HERSELF INTO A COMA EVERY NIGHT. BRENDA IS GOING TO MAKE SOME CHANGES. MAYBE SHE'LL VOLUNTEER; MAYBE SHE'LL JOIN A BOOK CLUB. THE WORLD IS HER OYSTER. SHE QUIETLY PUTS DOWN HER SECOND MARTINI AND SIPS ON HER WATER FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT. BEFORE THEY KNOW IT, VALENTINE'S DAY IS OVER.

IT'S TWO AM. A VERY SOBER BRENDA GETS OUT OF A CAB IN FRONT OF HER BUILDING. SHE PAYS THE CABBIE AND SAYS, "KEEP THE CHANGE." THE CABBIE TIPS HIS HAT AND SAYS, "A GENEROUS AND BEAUTIFUL LADY LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T BE ALONE ON A DAY LIKE THIS." BRENDA JUST SMILES.

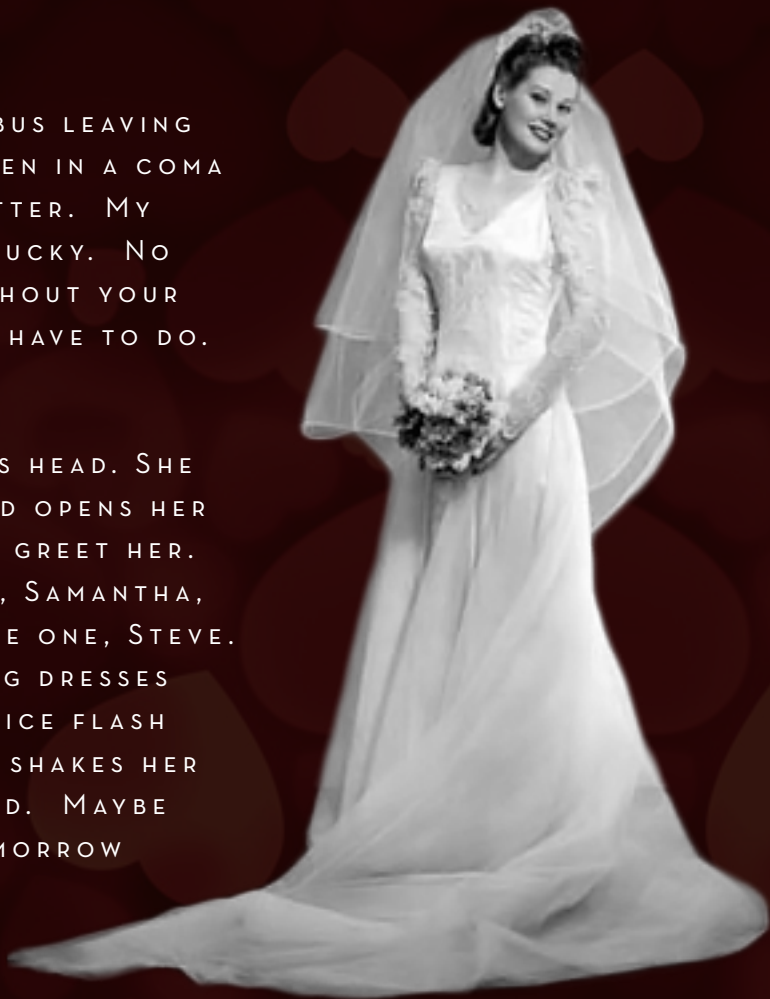
BRENDA TAKES A DEEP BREATH AND WALKS UP TO HER APARTMENT. SHE STOPS SHORT WHEN SHE SEES A DOZEN RED ROSES NEXT TO HER DOOR. SHE READS THE CARD:

It's from Louis!



“BRENDA, I WAS HIT BY A BUS LEAVING YOUR APARTMENT. I’VE BEEN IN A COMA BUT I’M FEELING MUCH BETTER. MY CELL PHONE WAS NOT SO LUCKY. NO WAY TO CALL OR TEXT WITHOUT YOUR NUMBER SO FLOWERS WILL HAVE TO DO. HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY.”

MUSIC SWELLS IN BRENDA’S HEAD. SHE PICKS UP THE FLOWERS AND OPENS HER DOOR. HER FAITHFUL CATS GREET HER. THERE’S MIRANDA, CARRIE, SAMANTHA, CHARLOTTE AND THE LITTLE ONE, STEVE. VISIONS OF WHITE WEDDING DRESSES AND A HONEYMOON IN VENICE FLASH BEFORE HER EYES BUT SHE SHAKES HER HEAD AND CLEARS HER MIND. MAYBE SHE’LL JUST SEE WHAT TOMORROW BRINGS...



the end.

A large, vibrant red heart is the central focus, appearing to be made of a material like leather or a similar textured surface. It is cracked and broken, with several jagged pieces missing, particularly on the left side. The text 'HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!' is written across the center of the heart in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

love,

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