

LEMON OF LOVE (2nd Draft)

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EXT. PIERRE AND LUIGI'S USED CAR LOT - DAY

Customers are roaming around, surveying cars and vans that might suit them. Our antagonist, GEORGE FULLINGTON, walks on-screen. With a pencil and notepad in his hands, he surveys the cars on the lot.

MAN (O.S.)

(thick Italian accent)

Good day, signore!

George turns his attention to our protagonist, LUIGI ROBERTO, the head salesman on the lot. In his bright and colorful suit and bowtie, Luigi greets George with a huge grin.

LUIGI

(cheerfully)

Welcome, my friend, to Pierre and Luigi's used car lot! What can I help you find today?

GEORGE

Well, I need something cheap with good millage.

LUIGI

Ah-ha! Well you come to the right place! Is there any model you had in mind?

GEORGE

(unsure of himself)

Well, I really don't know. Maybe a convertible or something.

Luigi sees the point; George is not very knowledgeable of cars. This should be an easy sale for Luigi.

LUIGI

Yes. Well, right this way! Luigi has the right model for you!

Luigi leads him towards a row of cars on display.

LUIGI (CONT'D)

And here you see some of our more classic models!

George writes down a couple of things on his notepad as Luigi points to a certain model.

(CONTINUED)

LUIGI (CONT'D)

This is one of my favorite models;
a 1975 Mustang! Good condition with
our low down payments, it's
practically a steal!

The car is clearly not a Mustang; it's a minivan. George writes down a couple of things before shaking his head no in disapproval. Luigi leads him down the row at another vehicle.

LUIGI

Not your style, eh? No worries,
friend. If class is what you're
into, then how about this 1989
Sedan. Mint condition. It's as
though it just came fresh out of
the factory.

George writes down a couple of more notes before shaking his head no to Luigi. Again, Luigi couldn't be more wrong. The car he's pointing to is not a Sedan, but is in fact a station wagon. Luigi looks worried that he might not make this sale. He pulls George to the end of the row and shows him a sleek, red '70s convertible with the top down.

LUIGI

I saved the best for last, my
friend! This beautiful convertible
just came in. It's an uh...
ummmmm...

GEORGE

1970 Dodge Challenger Convertible
with a 10.7:1 Compression, Quick
Fuel 830, dual electric cooling
fans, an aluminum radiator and a
500 Stroker kit from 440 Source.

Luigi seems extremely lost and confused by George's knowledge of vehicles. Nevertheless, he continues:

LUIGI

Er yes! That's exactly what I was
about to say. So since you seem to
be so attached to this car, I can
start you off with a down payment
of-

GEORGE

Excuse me.

(CONTINUED)

LUIGI

Yes?

GEORGE

Well, you see, I have a cousin in Brooklyn who bought a similar car like this and she paid way too much for it. Now she can't afford to finish college and must dropout. She's currently earning minimum wage at a muffin kiosk to make end's meet. If you don't mind, I would like to avoid something like that from happening to me. Thus, I'd like to offer you five thousand for this fine vehicle.

Luigi stammers; he's overjoyed by the amount that George has offered him. He then jumps up and down with glee before happily hugging George. While he's doing so, a little black box falls out of his left suit jacket pocket and into the backseat of the Challenger.

LUIGI (CONT'D)

Oh yes! Absolutely! I will happily accept your offer! Come with me, signore, and we shall draw up a contract.

Luigi gleefully leads George off the lot and into the lot's office building.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. USED CAR LOT - DAY (HOURS LATER)

George drives off the lot in the Challenger. Luigi stands in the middle of the lot, watching him drive off. Luigi's business partner and close friend, PIERRE SIMMONS, walks on-screen next to him.

PIERRE

So you made a pretty good sale, I assume?

LUIGI

(cheerfully)

Yes, my dear Pierre. Can you believe he gave me five thousand dollars? That car was only worth four thousand! Ha!

(CONTINUED)

PIERRE

Actually, that car was worth at least fifty thousand. You do know that, right?

LUIGI

(ignoring Pierre; chuckles)
I am such a good salesman.

PIERRE

So are you ready for tonight, my friend?

LUIGI

Oh yes! My heart is filled with joy! For tonight, I shall propose to my sweet and charming Maria!

PIERRE

Congratulations, signore! Did you pick out a nice engagement ring.

LUIGI

Yes, as a matter of fact, I did.
It's right here.

Luigi reaches into the right pocket of his plaid suit jacket, but finds no ring.

PIERRE

Perhaps it is in the other pocket.

Luigi checks the left pocket; no ring.

LUIGI

(nervously giggles)
Of course. Silly me. I put it in my right pants pocket.

Our protagonist gleefully pulls out his right pants pocket. Unfortunately, the pocket is bare, save a few pieces of lent.

LUIGI

Ah! But of course. I always put my most important items in my left pants pocket!

Luigi pulls out his left pants pocket and only finds spare change.

LUIGI

But then again, I have been known to place things inside my left sock.

Luigi bends down and begins to untie his left shoe as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. USED CAR LOT - NIGHT

The car lot is completely empty. Luigi, in his underwear, is sitting in the middle of the lot, crying his eyes out. His clothes lie in a pile next to him. Faithful Pierre is still standing by his side.

LUIGI

I have lost the ring! Why? Why, cruel fate.

PIERRE

Who cares? It's just a stupid ring.

Luigi is shocked to hear these words. He stands up and faces his business partner.

LUIGI

You fool. That was no ordinary ring. It belonged to my grandmama.

PIERRE

Oh. Well that's not good.

Luigi breaks down crying again.

PIERRE

(foolishly)

Do you remember where you had it last?

LUIGI

You dumb idiot! If I knew where it was, it wouldn't be lost!

PIERRE

Well you should try retracing your steps.

LUIGI

It's almost midnight! How am I supposed to-

Luigi gasps; he is having an epiphany. We suddenly...

(CONTINUED)

CUT TO:

EXT. USED CAR LOT - DAY (HOURS EARLIER)

Luigi and George, who's voices are inaudible, are talking about a fair price for the Challenger. As Luigi begins to jump up and down with glee, we get an XTREME CLOSE-UP of the little black box falling out of his pocket and into the back seat of the Challenger.

CUT TO:

EXT. USED CAR LOT - NIGHT

Luigi runs his fingers through his hair - he knows where the ring is.

LUIGI

The Challenger.

PIERRE

Come again?

LUIGI

The ring is in the back seat of that Challenger I sold today!

PIERRE

Well what can we do about it? The car is sold, it belongs to that man now.

Luigi looks over at his pile of clothes, lying on the ground. He digs through them and finds a folded piece of paper. He unfolds it: it's the lease George signed for the car and it has George's address on it.

Our protagonist leaps with joy and hugs Pierre before putting on his pants.

PIERRE (CONT'D)

What? What is it?

LUIGI

The lease he signed has his address on it! I'm going to retrieve my sweet grandmama's ring!

Luigi puts on his shirt and suit jacket before dashing off the lot and down the road.

(CONTINUED)

PIERRE (CONT'D)

Good luck!

As Luigi runs out of sight, Pierre looks around at the vast number of cars on the lot that Luigi could have easily used to drive to George's house.

EXT. GEORGE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Luigi is hiding behind a nearby fence, stalking the car parked in George's driveway. Our hero decides to make a desperate attempt by leaping over the fence and into George's yard.

However, having set foot on the yard, Luigi has awoken Princess - George's Rottweiler chained to a dog house. The dog then begins to relentlessly bark like an alarm until it's owner opens the door.

GEORGE

Who's there?

Luigi stumbles his way out of the yard and over the fence. He then makes a mad dash down the street. George walks over to Princess and unchains her from her leash.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Damn kids in my yard again. Teach 'em a lesson, Princess.

Having been freed by her master, Princess runs across the yard, miraculously leaps over the fence and hauls ass after poor Luigi.

EXT. A STREET INTERSECTION - NIGHT

Luigi is out of breath and decides to stop running. Then he turns around and notices Princess hot on his trail. The salesman has no choice but to flee for his life. He reaches the middle of the intersection before stumbling over his untied shoelaces.

It would seem that our hero has finally met his fate as Princess prepares to pounce. She growls at her prey, showing off her teeth that seem to be made of steel. Luigi closes his eyes and begins to pray:

LUIGI

Oh god and goddesses of love!
Wherever you are, I pray that you
help me in my time of need so that

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LUIGI (cont'd)

I may profess my undying affections
to my future soul mate! In this
final hour, I pray, help me!

Alas, the gods must have heard his prayer. Princess turns her head to a U-Haul truck, speeding towards the intersection. She flees for her very life with the U-Haul charging after her. Luigi opens his eyes and is amazed to find that not only is he still alive, but Princess is gone. He leaps up to his feet and begins to shout with joy and glee.

LUIGI

(shouting)

Oh thank you, gods! Thank you for
answering my prayers!

OLD LADY (O.S.)

(in the distance)

Keep it down out there! Some of us
have jazzercise in the morning!

LUIGI

Sorry.

EXT. GEORGE'S HOUSE - SUNRISE (MINUTES LATER)

Luigi is, once again, hiding behind a fence, trying to concoct another plan. Our lovesick hero opens the fence door and sneaks into the driveway. He then clumsily crawls to the convertible. From the house, the front door slowly and quietly opens; someone is emerging.

Our protagonist reaches over the door and manages to grab his little black box. He stands up to his feet, opens the box and there is his grandmother's beautiful engagement ring.

LUIGI

Yes! Victory is Luigi's!

He kisses the box and it would seem that victory is his. But as he turns to leave, he is met by George, who yanks him to the ground. George then pops the trunk of the Challenger and pulls out a shotgun.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Something told me you'd come back.
Looking to steal back the car, I
see. Are you trying to swindle me
out of my deal, you crooked
salesman!

(CONTINUED)

LUIGI

No, sir, you misunderstand.

George aims the shotgun at Luigi's face and prepares to fire. Then, George's lovely niece - MARIA - emerges from the house.

LUIGI

Maria?!

Maria runs to her fallen boyfriend's side and embraces him with a hug.

MARIA

Oh please, uncle! Please don't kill him! This is the man I was telling you about.

GEORGE

This is the guy? This is your boyfriend?

LUIGI

Signore, I can explain.

Both Maria and Luigi stand up to their feet and Luigi shows George his little black box.

LUIGI

You see, sir, I accidentally dropped this box in the car as we were making the deal. I did not come to claim the car.

GEORGE

Uh-huh. And what's in the box?

Luigi opens the box and reveals the ring. Maria gasps with shock. George nods his head; he finally gets the picture.

GEORGE

I see. Well I guess I owe you an apology then.

LUIGI

Oh, think nothing of it, signore! These kind of things happen to me all the time.

GEORGE

Well then I guess you've got something you need to do then, huh.

(CONTINUED)

LUIGI

Yes sir! And do not worry; I will treat your sweet Maria with the utmost respect. As long as we are together, I will not hurt her.

George and Maria exchange a worried glance; they know something Luigi doesn't know. George and Luigi shake hands before George heads back into the house. Luigi then gets down on one knee and faces Maria. Romantic music swells in the background.

LUIGI

Maria, from the moment I met you-

As Luigi emerges from his one-knee stance, a handsome looking man named CHET walks into the yard.

CHET

Hey, baby!

Maria and Luigi watch as CHET steps out of the house. Chet walks to Maria and plants a kiss on her cheek. Luigi stands up to his feet in shock.

MARIA

Luigi... ..This is Chet.

With his left arm around Maria, Chet tries to shake Luigi's hand. But Luigi just stares at the two of them, completely devastated.

MARIA

See, you're a nice guy and all, but you and I don't have the same level of feelings for each other. You're such a sweet man, but I need my space. I'm really sorry, but I think we should take a break and see other people.

Luigi hangs his head in defeat. Maria embraces him with a hug before turning to Chet.

MARIA

We should get going.

CHET

Yeah. We don't want to miss that movie: 'Bottles and Cans: A Love Story.'

MARIA

Well, bye Luigi.

Maria and Chet head into the Challenger.

CHET

(to Maria)

Hey, this is a pretty good car.

MARIA

Thanks. My uncle just bought it for me!

Maria backs out of the driveway and speeds off with her new man. Luigi is standing in the driveway, still shocked over what just transpired. And just when things couldn't get worse, a familiar growl is heard off screen. Luigi turns over and sees Princess staring at him. Luigi's facial expression turns from shocked to fearful. Seconds later, Princess pounces on him and we...

SMASH CUT TO:

THE END CREDITS