

HAPPY ENDINGS

Written by

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Based on a true story.

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EXT. POTOMAC WOODS PLAZA - THE SPA - SIDEWALK - DAY

BEN is sweeping the parking space in front of his family business as shoppers walk by with morning coffee. An SUV drives up nearly hitting him.

A woman in yoga pants talking on her ear bud phone exits her SUV in front of the spa.

BEN

Good morning, excuse me Miss.

He is sweeping toward her but stops for her as she passes by.

She glares at BEN but continues her phone conversation.

WOMAN #1

What? Oh, nobody it's just a janitor.

Suddenly the front door of the spa opens and LUCY yells to Ben.

LUCY

Bad husband! Leave that woman alone and get in here now.

Ben drops the broom but gets the angry look from Lucy then grabs it.

BEN

Coming my love! Lovely bag of vipers. (Under his breath.)

INT - THE SPA - FRONT DESK - CONTINUOUS

LUCY

Stop flirting with your girl friends, run front desk. First week open and you need be here. You know my English is not well.

BEN

You mean not good.

LUCY

I good, you - you bad husband!

Elderly man on walker comes in with woman. She is guiding him into the spa.

WOMAN#2

OK Admiral just a few more steps!

BEN

Well, good morning. Welcome to the Spa?

WOMAN#2

This is the Admiral, my father, he has a pedicure appointment.

BEN

Oh yes, may I have the name or phone number to confirm your...

ADMIRAL

Who the hell are you? You look like a commie.

WOMAN#2

I think he's the receptionist. He wants your telephone number.

BEN

Actually I am the...

ADMIRAL

Only give him name, rank and serial number. Dirty commie.

BEN

I'm Ben, the owner of the spa.

ADMIRAL

What does he want now?

WOMAN#2

He said he's an owner.

ADMIRAL

A loner? Well that's too damn bad, commie. We should have launched the bombers when we had the chance.

BEN

Oh! Well back in the day sir, I was in U.S. Air Force.

ADMIRAL

Flyboy huh? I guess they were on our side.

Lucy walks in and takes control of the front desk.

LUCY
 Ready for pedicare? You need
 medicare too? My girls take care of
 you, please go this way.

BEN
 Manicure, darling. Not Medicare.

WOMAN#2
 No manicure, just pedicure.

LUCY
 Just pedicare? Oh, OK.

Several young ladies appear to guide him to the pedicure
 room.

WOMAN#2
 I'll be back in a 1 hour, OK?

BEN
 No worries. Us veterans have a lot
 to talk about. Take your time.

Admiral's daughter leaves.

Lucy glances at Ben with dagger eyes.

BEN (CONT'D)
 What?

LUCY
 This not social club, this spa.

BEN
 I just wanted her to go...

LUCY
 Go to die.

Lucy storms off.

BEN
 Evil Snakehead.

From far across the spa.

LUCY
 I heard that!

The phone rings at the front desk.

BEN

Welcome to The Spa, how may I help you? (Listens.) What? Absolutely not, we don't allow that kind of behavior here. This is a full service spa - we offer nail care, massages, facials... No! This is a family run business. Hello? Perverts.

BILLIE, a young woman walks up behind counter, talking on her smartphone.

BILLIE

Hou, hou, ha, ha, bye bye. Bad Uncle!

BEN

Yes Billie, what's up?

BILLIE

You know my fiance Chris?

BEN

Is that your friend in Shanghai?

BILLIE

Well, she want baby. I want baby.

BEN

Well how do you propose to do that?

BILLIE

Chris is my true love. I do anything for her. You can help.

BEN

How could I help?

BILLIE

You give me baby.

BEN

What?! Impossible. I'm your Uncle.

BILLIE

Not blood Uncle. Auntie say you have extra seed you not use. You go to special baby clinic near here. You think of Auntie, spank monkey, we get seed, put in Chris' baby house and we get beautiful blue eye Chinese boy. So easy.

BEN

Easy?! There are ethical rules,
immigration laws, and besides I
have never even met Chris.

BILLIE

No worry, she like you. You get
more nieces and half son. Everybody
happy. Oh and she pay \$20,000.

BEN

\$20,000? Does Auntie Lucy know
about this?

BILLIE

Not yet.

BEN

Let's not rush to tell Auntie until
we talk more about this, OK?

BILLIE

You say yes? Promise?

Two middle-aged women enter the spa.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Bad Uncle! Give me baby!

BEN

Let's talk later.

The middle-aged women look shocked.

Billie stomps off.

BEN (CONT'D)

Oh kids today, so much drama.
Welcome to The Spa.

They give him dirty looks.

Lucy renters the front desk area with esthetician LIDIYA.

LUCY

Hi ladies, please follow Lidiya for
body wraps and facials.

LIDIYA

Velcome, ladies. Please come zis
vay.

Ben, ben. (Chinese character =
Stupid) Subtitled.

(MORE)

LIDIYA (CONT'D)
 Stop bothering clients.
 Keep open eye for health inspector.
 We must pass that or we get a
 ticket.

BEN
 You mean a fine. We'll get a fine.

LUCY
 Not fine, not OK. Who pay ticket?
 Who pay? You? Ben, ben meguoren.

Lucy returns to spa to check on clients.

HAMPTON PEARSON, a handsome man enters the front door.

HAMPTON PEARSON
 Hello, I'm Hampton Pearson.
 Lidiya's husband. Can I speak with
 her?

His phone begins to ring, he mutes it.

BEN
 She just took two clients back for
 facials and body wraps. It will be
 about two hours before she is free.
 Would you like to wait in the
 lounge?

His phone begins to ring again, he pauses it.

HAMPTON PEARSON
 No thank you. But I need to leave
 her a message.

Pearson's phone begins to ring again.

BEN
 Do you need to take that? Please...

Pearson texts back.

HAMPTON PEARSON
 They are bringing out my horse at
 the polo club.

BEN
 Wow, a polo player, you need to go?

HAMPTON PEARSON
 No They can wait, I own the polo
 club.

Esthetician Lidiya walks into scene and gives Hampton a kiss.

LIDIYA

My sweet lyublyu. I heard you here.

HAMPTON PEARSON

I was just telling your clerk I have no time for chitchat and must run for my match.

BEN

Ouch, hey I'm right here.

LIDIYA

Oh, don't bother with him, Lucy iz in charge.

BEN

I'm still here.

HAMPTON PEARSON

I'll see you later after the match, let's dine at Stanfords tonight.

They kiss again and part. The spa phone rings.

BEN

Welcome to The Spa, how may I help you? No we definitely don't do that here.

Lucy enters the front desk.

BEN (CONT'D)

Why do I get all the crack pot calls?

LUCY

Bad husband, you need hire receptionist. You scare people, you're too old. Clients want beautiful young woman to greet them. You are old and broken.

BEN

So can I begin interviewing beautiful receptionists today?

LUCY

NO. Wait for Health Inspector. I go check on Admiral.

Front door opens, MR. VALENTINE a well dressed pimped out businessman walks in.

BEN

Good day sir, how may I help you?

MR. VALENTINE

My three special ladies need manicures, pedicures and facials.

BEN

Excellent, I can book those appointments for you. What are their names?

MR. VALENTINE

Just book them under me, Mr. Valentine. They'll be here on time.

BEN

Is there an email or phone number so you can confirm...?

MR. VALENTINE

No, No, we are just here for the golf tournament at the country club.

BEN

Marvelous, we have openings for three in a few hours this afternoon. Here's your appointment card. I just love golf, you must play at all the best courses.

MR. VALENTINE

Not exactly.

He pulls a large roll of \$100 dollar bills and hands them to Ben who puts in cash register.

MR. VALENTINE (CONT'D)

This should be enough for the services and tips. No receipt needed. And after my ladies are complete, be a good fellow and remove my name from your appointment book, yes?

He hands more money to Ben.

BEN

Of course Mr. Valen... oops, I mean of course sir.

Ben pantomimes a zipper closing his lips.

Mr. Valentine fist pumps Ben and leaves.

Ben stuffs the extra money into his pocket.

Ben's daughter KATHY walks up to the front desk.

KATHY

Dad, are you skimming the cash register again?

BEN

No of course not, I got a big tip from Mr. Valen. I mean from a great customer.

KATHY

It doesn't matter to me but if Mom catches you, you'll be out on the couch again.

She looks like she ask a question.

BEN

Yes what do you need?

KATHY

I need to buy another book for college.

Ben pulls out all the money Mr. Valentine gave him and hands it to her.

KATHY (CONT'D)

Good grief all this cash is your tip? No, I don't want to know. Thank you Daddy.

BEN

You're my best girl. Anything for you. Give me a hug.

KATHY

Oh come on, I'm not in junior high anymore, I'm an adult now.

BEN

OK, OK.

KATHY

I have my own dreams, aspirations and goals in life.

(MORE)

KATHY (CONT'D)
I don't want to wind up working at
this place when I'm old.

BEN
I know, I know.

KATHY
I'm sorry Daddy, I didn't mean...

BEN
Don't worry about it, just do your
best at college.

This time they hug for real.

KATHY
I love you Daddy.

BEN
I love you too. See you later.

Kathy leaves out the front door.

Ben turns toward the manicure stations and see MAMA, Lucy's
mother staring at him.

BEN (CONT'D)
Hi Mama, can I get you something?
Water, juice?

MAMA
Humpf!!

DISSOLVE:

INT - THE SPA - NAIL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ben walks into scene to see four nail stations full of
customers. MEI MEI meets him.

BEN
Mei Mei, please take over at the
front desk for a bit.

MEI MEI
OK but I have a client in 15
minutes. He's so handsome and rich.

BEN
A new boyfriend, what's his name?

MEI MEI

Ted. No it's Ed. No, I can't remember. He'll be here soon.

BEN

Hey what's in a name? You should hear what your Auntie calls me.

He spots Mama. She has a mean scowl on her face sitting watching everyone in the nail room.

BEN (CONT'D)

Ni hou MAMA, hou bu hou?

MAMA

Humph.

BEN

You need that water now?

She scowls.

WOMAN AT NAIL STATION

Hey I would something drink! You got any wine or cocktails?

BEN

No but I can offer four kinds of tea.

OTHER WOMEN AT STATIONS

What about me? Can I have a soda? You got smoothies?

BEN

I tell you what, I'll bring everybody tea right away.

MAMA

You can't please everyone, it leaves you blind in one ear.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE SPA - FRONT DESK - CONTINUOUS

Ben and Mei Mei are looking at the appointments on the computer.

PUJA enters with MISS PEPPERJACK, a school Marm looking middle age woman.

PUJA

Hi Ben, this is Miss Pepperjack one of my most loyal and dearest customers.

BEN

Delighted to meet you, are you wearing one of Puja's creations?

MISS PEPPERJACK

Yes I am. Pula speaks highly of you, may I tour the spa?

BEN

By all means. Please have an AcuSpa gift bag. Inside is our service menu, discount cards, facial creams, hand lotions and herbal teas.

MISS PEPPERJACK

Thank you so much. How kind of you...

At that instant, a sweating obese man MR. WINKS comes in with briefcase and sets on the counter knocking over displays.

MR. WINKS

Sorry I'm late, traffic was hell. I'm Mr. Winks. Here to see your establishment. I've checked the Website, all your deals and comments to see if you are up to snuff for my standards.

BEN

Ladies, please go ahead on a self guided tour, I have a VIP here.

Ben is pushing them toward the nail stations.

Whispering to Mei Mei to alert everyone.

BEN (CONT'D)

Spread the word - the Health Inspector is here. Red alert.

Mei Mei heads off to alert the other technicians.

BEN (CONT'D)

Please come this way MR. WINKS. We have a special treatment for you today. Let's get you into a pedicure chair, you'll love it.

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

I know how hard it must be to trim those toenails.

MR. WINKS

Excuse me?

BEN

Well I mean, I mean you are so busy with important matters and such.

MR. WINKS

Yes, busy...important.

The two walk through the manicure stations.

WOMAN AT NAIL STATION

Hey where's our tea?

BEN

There's a water fountain in the hallway. So sorry the interruption Mr. Winks, some people feel sooo entitled. Let's get you settled in a chair.

INT. THE SPA - PEDICURE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

BEN

Hi ladies, can everyone move down a station? Mr. Winks needs a prime spot. Admiral move over.

ADMIRAL

What? Abandon ship! Look out for the damn sharks. Cut a man in half, oh the humanities.

Clients begin grumbling but reluctantly move down.

BEN

Thank you Admiral. Now Mr. Winks can I get you something to drink?

MR. WINKS

Water, tea or something stronger, yes?

BEN

I keep a special stash for VIP's such as you. A cocktail perhaps. But wait you're on duty aren't you?

MR. WINKS
A stiff drink would be ideal.

BEN
Right away. We love City VIPs.

MR. WINKS
Huh? Whatever. Where's that drink?

THE SPA - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Ben runs into the hallway to bump into Miss Pepperjack.

BEN
Oh hi Miss...Miss...

MISS PEPPERJACK
Pepperjack. Pepperjack!

BEN
Cheese, you want cheese?

MISS PEPPERJACK
No you fool. My name is Miss
Pepperjack.

BEN
That's right, how's the tour?
Where's Puja?

MISS PEPPERJACK
She went back next door to her
shop. Where's the restroom?

BEN
That way. Down the hall.

MISS PEPPERJACK
It's kind of dark.

BEN
Jeez. You're a big girl, you'll
find it. Now please, I must attend
to a VIP.

He walks away, she looks lost and he says under his breath.

BEN (CONT'D)
Having a senior moment no doubt?

INT. THE SPA - FRONT DESK - CONTINUOUS

Lucy, Mei Mei and Billie at front desk discussing current crisis.

LUCY

You really want a baby?

BILLIE

Yes, but Chris have baby. I wear the pants, she is girlfriend.

MEI MEI

Does Chris have a Visa yet? Once she is here you two can legally marry.

BILLIE

Really? I love America.

LUCY

You sure you want Ben as baby father?

BILLIE

Yes. He is tall, blue eye, healthy and kind.

LUCY

Don't mistake he kind for stupid.

BILLIE

He can be Baba in our big American family.

LUCY

Don't count on him. You two just be best Mamas for baby.

INT. THE SPA - PEDICURE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ben comes back into the pedicure room with a cocktail, a huge deli sandwich, chocolate bars and a fruit basket.

BEN

Mr. Winks, so sorry to keep you waiting. Here's a snack starter for you.

MR. WINKS

You get high marks for this my boy.

BEN
Yes, yes, anything you need.

Lucy walks into pedicure room.

LUCY
Ben, what's all this? We're not allowed to serve alcohol, what are you doing?

BEN
Please Lucy let me handle it. This is between us men.

LUCY
Sagwa.
(Subtitle appears- "Fool.")

Off in the distance we here Miss Pepperjack calling.

MISS PEPPERJACK
Hello? Anybody there? It's flooding.

BEN
Now what?

LUCY
Go fix problem.

INT. THE SPA - REST ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lucy and Ben run down the hallway to the restroom. Water is over flowing in the toilet.

BEN
Good God! What have you done?!
Did you flush paper towels down the crapper!?

LUCY
Shut it. Please forgive my bad husband. His mouth and brain not work right.

MISS PEPPERJACK
I only flushed one tissue.

Lucy picks up toilet plunger and hands it to Ben.

LUCY
Your job.

BEN

But I have a VIP to attend to.

LUCY

I so sorry Miss Peppy, I show you Jacuzzi tub now, full service facial room.

MISS PEPPERJACK

How delightful.

LUCY

You. Fix toilet, mop wata. Now.

BEN

Yes dear.

Ben begins to plunge then a geyser of water and all the contents from the complimentary gift bag explodes out of the toilet onto him.

INT. THE SPA - PEDICURE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

BEN

All good Mr. Winks? Mr. Winks, FYI we have complied with all the building, ADA and fire codes even added arm supports for the toilets.

RYAN the nail technician gives thumbs up.

Winks burps, smile and gives a thumbs up too.

ADMIRAL

What about us? Jesus! I got better treatment as a POW at the Hanoi Hilton. Those little bastards never got me to sing.

BEN

Admiral, I'll find you something too. Just think you're on a vacation.

ADMIRAL

Sure, our idea of a vacation was a bowl of cold rice and a chunk of rat meat. Those dirty commie bastards.

BEN

Mr. Winks, Admiral. If you need anything just ask Ryan there.

ADMIRAL

That spy? He hasn't said a word since I got here. Probably taking notes of everything we say.

Ben heads for the front desk.

INT. THE SPA - FRONT DESK - CONTINUOUS

A very muscular MIMI is at the front desk arm wrestling a man client with others cheering on. Ben enters from back of spa.

CROWD

Go, go, go, go Mimi Go!

MIMI wins contest and people pay up wagers.

BEN

Mimi! What the hell! How many times have I told you, no gambling in the spa.

MIMI

Sorry Laoban. But I won enough for big night at casino.

She turns to man who lost contest, gives him wink and slaps him on his butt.

MIMI (CONT'D)

See ya later Sport.

BEN

OK every one the show is over, back to work.

Crowd grumbles but disperses out the door or back to work. Phone rings.

BEN (CONT'D)

AcuSpa, how may I help you? Yes right now? We have an opening. You are where? Out front? Sure come in.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT enters spa talking to his wrist. Four other agents enter and begin snooping around

SECRET SERVICE AGENT

We have to perform a perimeter check? You're the AcuSpa owner, Ben Doolittle?

(MORE)

SECRET SERVICE AGENT (CONT'D)
Social Security number 466-11-9091,
married 25 years to a one Lucy Wang
from Harbin China,
You have one daughter in college.
You are currently taking Viagra...

BEN
Hey wait a minute. How can I help
you? What do you people want?

SECRET SERVICE AGENT
Copy that. We're 5 by 5. Negatory,
that's hold on Golden Shower.

Lucy and Miss Pepperjack enter front desk area.

LUCY
Ben what have you done now? Who
are these people?

SECRET SERVICE AGENT
Afternoon Ma'am, U.S. Secret
Service Agent Johnson. We have a
special operation here and we
require your cooperation.

LUCY
OK. I guess.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT
Send in Golden Shower.

A woman with hair scarf, Jackie O glasses is hustled in.
Looks like Melania Trump.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT (CONT'D)
Ma'm we're going to need you top
masseuse, esthetician and nail
technician.

LUCY
Of course, follow me. Ben stay
here, stay out of trouble.

BEN
10-4, Copy that.

LUCY
Idiot.

At the door two agents stand guard. SARAH and DR. LARRY
attempt to enter.

AGENTS

Halt, we're closed.

SARAH

Who the hell are you? I'm a regular client here.

DR. LARRY

Yes, she is my patient and my treatment room is in there.

Ben goes to the front door.

BEN

Sarah, Dr. Larry, I'm so sorry we're temporarily closed. We have a special guest...

AGENT

Don't say it!

SARAH

What do you mean closed? I need a Botox injection before I go to my grandson's bar mitzvah.

BEN

You look marvelous Mrs. Goldstein just the way you are.

SARAH

How would you know? The other day my grandson asked if I was dying soon.

DR. LARRY

I'm sure he didn't mean that.

SARAH

Right, I was sleeping on the couch and he pulled the blanket over my head.

BEN

That boy has quite a sense of humor.

AGENT

Please sir, ma'am. We have to ask you to leave.

BEN

Don't worry, we'll be fully open in a few hours. Please come back for a complimentary pedicure.

DR. LARRY

Thanks Ben we'll stop by later. OK Sarah, I've got an injection unit in my van, we can go there.

SARAH

Marvelous I'm being lured into van by Dr. Perv.

Kathy returns to spa from front door, agents stop her.

AGENTS

Halt, identify yourself.

BEN

No she's OK, that's my daughter, she works here. Let her in. Kathy we have a special guest, please stay here at the desk.

KATHY

Sure Dad.

INT. THE SPA - PEDICURE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ben enters the pedicure room, water is overflowing with an empty wine bottle floating out of MR. WINKS foot bath. A drunken Mr. Winks is passed out with food smeared on his shirt.

ADMIRAL

Abandon ship! This is no drill.

BEN

Jesus, take the wheel. This is a disaster.

Lucy and Miss Pepperjack walk by handing him a mop and bucket.

LUCY

Your job. Now Miss Pepperjack have
you seen our massage rooms?

The two ladies leave.

BEN

Wake up Mr. Winks.

MR. WINKS

Huh? What? Guess I dozed off.
You got any more snacks?

Ben does a slow burn look building to stress.

INT. THE SPA - FRONT DESK - CONTINUOUS

Ben at front desk as Secret Service agents return exiting
with Golden Shower.

AGENT

Thank you for your compliance.

BEN

Wait, did you folks pay?

Secret service agents are gone now. Ben alone at front desk.
Mama walks to front desk and looks at Ben.

BEN (CONT'D)

Yes Mama, can I help you?

MAMA

Why you marry my daughter? Why not
you marry your own kind?

BEN

Wow! But I love her. We make a
good team.

MAMA

Marriage and business, not team
sport. You need get job. She need
stay home.

BEN

But we work here.

MAMA

You bad businessman. You go work in post office, that good job.

BEN

There's no future for the post office.

MAMA

Best for you, no future.

Lucy and Miss Pepperjack walk into scene.

LUCY

Hi Mama, it's good to see you and Ben getting along.

MAMA

Humph!

Mama leaves.

INT. THE SPA - LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS

Kathy and Billie on smartphone using We Chat app to Chris in China.

BILLIE

Xie xie, wo e ni. Bye bye.
Chris say she go to Embassy for Visa. She want to know, can get fiancé visa?

KATHY

Oh I don't know, I'll have to check.

BILLIE

Then we get your Dad to make baby for me. You can do anything in America.

KATHY

So wait a second. You are my cousin and my Dad will be the baby father with your girlfriend? When you and Chris get married, she'll be my sister-in-law and her baby will be my half-sister or half-brother?

BILLIE

It is wonderful. We one big happy Wang family.

KATHY

Uh huh. One big happy Wang family.

They hug.

INT. THE SPA - FRONT DESK - CONTINUOUS

A barefoot drunken Mr. Winks staggers to the front desk holding his shoes and business case.

BEN

Hi Mr. Winks, I hope your stay with us was exceptional.

MR. WINKS

Couldn't be better.

BEN

Perfect. Since you are very special guest, there's no charge. Would you like me to sign our health inspection certificate now?

MR. WINKS

The what?

BEN

You know our inspection certificate? As City health inspector you passed us on our inspection right?

MR. WINKS

I don't know anything about that. I'm an accountant with the IRS.

BEN

What?! But I thought...

BEN (CONT'D)

Oh my God, after all the special treatment and perks you're not the guy.

MR. WINKS

No I'm not that guy but I'm...

BEN

Thank you for coming. Get out.

Ben shuffles him out the door. Ben turns around to see a shocked Lucy and Miss Pepperjack staring at him.

LUCY

Ben.

BEN

Yes Lucy.

LUCY

Meet Miss Pepperjack.

BEN

Yes. Yes, I've been holding her hand all day.

LUCY

Let me introduce Miss Pepperjack, the City Health Inspector.

BEN

The who? The what?... Oh I'm so sorry I was...

MISS PEPPERJACK

Rude, disrespectful, unprofessional and a boar.

BEN

Yea, yes, what she said.

MISS PEPPERJACK

Well after today I can conclude two things. First, your lovely wife Lucy gave me a tour and I found no health infractions. Secondly, although it's not my affair but I believe you are the worst business man I've ever met. Your health certificate will be in the mail in a few days. Good day to you both.

Lucy smiling and waving goodbye to Miss Pepperjack as she leaves.

Lucy slowly turning from smiles to dagger eyes of anger to Ben.

LUCY

Go to die.

Lucy exists leaving Ben alone at the front desk.

The front door opens and three transvestites in sexy, elegant dresses enter.

TRAN #1

Hi sugar, you must be Ben?
Mr. V said you would take real good
care of us?

TRAN#2

He's the hot golfer daddy talked
about?

TRAN#3

Darlin' I've got something that
will make your putter stand up.

Ben faints dead away.

The phone rings.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END