

DEE & JAY: HOMELESS IN LOVE

Written by

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Based on "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry

EXT. JUNKYARD - DAY

A car idles by a junkyard. The sidewalk is littered with cans and garbage. Many homeless people explore this area for stray items to sell.

DEE, 22, malnourished and wearing holy clothes, holds onto her beanie as she sprints full speed towards her boyfriend's car with a bag of crushed soda cans.

JAY, 25, a man with a wiry beard and weathered clothing, stares up at Dee with fear in his eyes as he starts his car.

Dee fumbles with the door handle, then clamors in.

JAY
What happened?

DEE
Some old man said he was going to call the cops on me for collecting cans. How stupid is that?

Dee folds her arms.

DEE (CONT'D)
I wish we had money and a place to stay.

JAY
I'm sorry.

DEE
Never apologize for being who you are. I don't want a transphobic person as our landlord anyway.

EXT. SHOPPING CENTER - NIGHT

Lights illuminate Jay's car in an empty parking lot.

DEE
Have you called the shelter?

JAY
Yes. None are taking anyone in right now.

Dee tears up.

DEE
Do you think we'll ever be financially stable?

JAY
We will. I promise.

Jay rubs Dee's hand gently.

EXT. SHOPPING CENTER - DAY

A TAPPING jolts Dee and Jay awake.

Dee rolls down her window and rubs the sleep from her eyes.

A POLICE OFFICER observes the backseat, which is filled with their belongings.

POLICE OFFICER
You can't sleep here.

JAY
I'm so sorry, Officer.

POLICE OFFICER
I'll let you go with a warning, but don't let me see you parked here overnight again.

DEE
Aye aye, Captain!

The police officer glares at Dee.

Jay waves goodbye to the officer, then drives away.

EXT. STREET CORNER - DAY

Jay parks his car.

Dee exits, then she grabs her guitar and a suit jacket from the trunk.

She hands the suit jacket to Jay.

DEE
Wear this.

JAY
To deliver food?

DEE
It's your lucky jacket.

JAY
I wouldn't say it's lucky, but I
sure do look good in it.

DEE
Yes you do!

Jay and Dee laugh.

Dee blows Jay a kiss.

Jay drives away.

Dee strums her guitar.

A PASSERBY stops and listens intently.

PASSERBY
You sound terrible. Get a real job.

DEE
What's it to you?

The Passerby storms away -- revealing a pawn shop across the street.

Dee grabs the singles from her guitar case and shoves them into her pocket.

She places her guitar in the case, then beelines for the shop.

INT. PAWN SHOP - DAY

Dee walks through a crowded space mostly filled with antiques.

She taps a bell on a jewelry counter. A WOMAN appears.

WOMAN
How can I help you today?

DEE
I would like to buy something
special for my boyfriend.

WOMAN
What do you have in mind?

DEE
I'm not sure yet.

Dee lays her guitar case on the counter and opens it.

The woman sharply points to a wall lined with a plethora of guitars.

WOMAN

We have enough already.

DEE

I guess I shouldn't sell this anyway. Have to make money somehow.

The woman raises her eyebrows.

Dee hesitates, then she looks down at her charm bracelet.

DEE (CONT'D)

What about this?

She hands her bracelet to the woman.

The woman puts on her glasses and observes it closely.

WOMAN

Are you sure you want to sell this?

DEE

It's the only other thing I have that's worth anything.

WOMAN

Will you take store credit?

Dee looks around and notices a pair of cufflinks.

She gestures toward the cufflinks.

DEE

Could I exchange it for those?

WOMAN

Sure.

Dee claps her hands excitedly.

INT. CAR - DAY

Dee climbs into Jay's car.

JAY

How was singing?

DEE

I didn't make much. How was delivering food?

JAY

Not great. I couldn't wait to get back to you.

Dee holds Jay's hand.

DEE

How do you want to celebrate our anniversary? We could go swimming at the beach?

JAY

I have a surprise for you.

DEE

Oh?

Dee's eyes widen.

JAY

I've saved enough money for us to spend the night at a hotel.

DEE

Really!?

Dee dances in her seat.

Jay holds Dee's hand and kisses it.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Dee kicks off her shoes and jumps on a queen sized bed.

Jay joins her on the bed. They smile at each other.

DEE

I'm sorry our circumstances aren't better.

JAY

Let's enjoy this moment.

Jay and Dee kiss.

JAY (CONT'D)

Babe, can you get out your charm bracelet?

DEE

Why?

JAY

Please...

Dee looks away.

DEE

I, uh, sold it to buy you these.

Dee pulls cufflinks from her pocket.

DEE (CONT'D)

I thought they would look good with
your jacket.

Jay puts his head in his hands and cries.

Dee rushes to his side and throws her arms around him.

DEE (CONT'D)

What's wrong, love?

Dee wipes Jay's tears.

Jay walks to his backpack and pulls out a ring-shaped charm.

He opens her hand and places the charm in it.

DEE (CONT'D)

This is beautiful.

JAY

I sold my suit jacket to buy this.

Tears well in Dee's eyes.

JAY (CONT'D)

I can't afford an engagement ring
right now, but I promise you will
have the ring you deserve one day.

Dee pulls Jay into her and squeezes him.

DEE

You're everything I want.

JAY

We're going to be alright.

Jay kisses Dee on the forehead.