

EXTRACT FROM 'THE LOVE AGENT'

A feature screenplay by Stephanie Hutchinson

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - DAY

Rupert and JULIAN (short, balding, stressed - 42) step out of an office building and walk down the street. Rupert buys two coffees from a sidewalk coffee vendor and they venture into a park. Julian has been talking non-stop about his girlfriend, Lizzie.

JULIAN

You shoulda seen it! Lizzie was incredible! This kid just gravitated towards her, like she *knew* she could trust her. I owe you a huge debt, Rupert, for introducing me to her. Even my mother likes her now!

RUPERT

Progress indeed.

EXT. SMALL PARK - AFTERNOON

Rupert leads Julian to a park bench in the shade. A FATHER (32) is pushing his insanely cute son on a swing close by. The LITTLE BOY (3) is squealing in delight.

JULIAN

You know Rupert, I am really beginning to think Lizzie might just be the one - you know, the mother of my child!

RUPERT

Beginning to think? It's been what, eight months since you two love birds met? And you've been inseparable ever since!

JULIAN

Yeah, well, there's no rush is there? Can't hurry love and all that? I've got plenty of time!

LITTLE BOY

Higher daddy! Higher!

RUPERT

You might have plenty of time old boy. Us chaps are lucky in that respect. But, well, Lizzie is an entirely different matter altogether.

JULIAN

What do you mean?

RUPERT

Well, she's what, coming up to 36 next birthday?

JULIAN

Yes, I think so. Why?

RUPERT

And after marriage what usually follows is a baby carriage right?

The father catches the son and swings him around. The boy squeals louder. Rupert smiles at the scene in front of them. Julian notices them for the first time. The father lifts his son on to his shoulders as the child reaches for a bird in a tree.

JULIAN

Well, yes, usually.

RUPERT

(matter of factly)

But getting pregnant can be a tricky business you know. Conceiving is a lot harder than most people think. Especially for women over 35. Did you know that approximately one in eight couples are affected by infertility in the United States? That's about 6.7 million people each year who have trouble conceiving.

JULIAN

Er, no, I wasn't aware of that. Those numbers are staggering.

RUPERT

Mother Nature isn't always kind. Thirty-five is the average age of women when their natural fertility begins to show a marked decline.

JULIAN

How awful!

The little boy is holding his father's hand as they walk towards Rupert and Julian. As they near their bench the little boy stops.

LITTLE BOY

Stop Daddy, I have sumfing vewy important to say. Ssh, it's a secret.

LITTLE BOY'S DAD

(tenderly)

What is it son?

He clasps his father's face with his pudgy hands.

LITTLE BOY

(whispering, but within earshot)

I wuv you Daddy.

Julian's face looks as if it's about to break as the father lifts his son up and covers his face in kisses.

RUPERT

(breezily)

Anyway, luckily, nearly 90% of infertility cases are treatable with medical therapies such as drug treatment and surgical repair of reproductive organs.

Julian nods, horrified, his eyes lingering on the retreating father and son.

RUPERT (CONT'D)

But there's always exceptions right old boy? I'm sure Lizzie will be one of those... Best get back eh?

EXT. SIDEWALK - AFTERNOON

Rupert leads a preoccupied Julian back along the city streets. He pauses casually, nonchalantly, in front of a shop window - TIFFANY & CO and glances at his watch.

RUPERT

Oh, my car's parked in the other direction, so I'll say goodbye here OK? Give my love to Lizzie will you? Let's do dinner for her birthday!

Rupert darts across the road and glances behind him. Julian has walked in to Tiffany's. Rupert smiles to himself and pulls out his phone and leaves a message.

RUPERT (CONT'D)

Steve. Julian is primed to PTQ, but I haven't made a final decision yet. And well done on the casting for the father and son scene. They were outstanding. Absolute naturals.