

Expect a 10-year Delay
by
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1- INT. OFFICE BUILDING ELEVATOR - DAY

1

CHARLOTTE SHEER, 38 walks up to the elevator in her law firm lobby, Her corporate-level confidence oozes from her Alexander McQueen blazer and black stilettos. As the doors close, however, we see Charlotte's shoulders sag, as she lets out a sigh. Opening up her phone, we see a slew of different dating apps on her home screen. She hovers over them, before realizing the elevator doors are about to open. She quickly puts the phone away and the facadé of her business stature returns. She exits.

2- INT. LAW FIRM OFFICE - DAY

2

Charlotte opens the door to the law firm. The young secretary smiles sweetly at her. The sign above the secretary reads **SHEER&SAMBERG, ATTORNEYS AT LAW** office as the other lawyers in the firm hustle around, suddenly aware of her presence.

3- INT. CHARLOTTE'S OFFICE - DAY

3

Charlotte's office is a massive room overlooking Manhattan. Bryant Park can be seen in the distance. Degrees and awards line the wall. Charlotte adjusts the framed photo of her with her dog on the desk. Charlotte's law firm partner, PETER SAMBERG, 39 busts into the office.

CHARLOTTE

Ever heard of knocking, Peter?

PETER

I'm sorry were you masturbating in here? Because I can get the rest of the office to come and watch.

CHARLOTTE

Don't, besides they wouldn't be any help. They'd just stand there with their mouth open and ask if they "could be of any assistance." I swear, Pete, we hired a bunch of idiots.

PETER

You're just too hard on them. Every time you're here it's like the drill

sergeant just showed up.

CHARLOTTE

I just want to be as successful as possible, and that requires competent employees.

Peter walks towards the window, looking out at the view.

PETER

Y'know I always wished my office was on this side of the building, your view of Bryant Park is beautiful.

CHARLOTTE

Really? I guess I never noticed a difference.

PETER

It's today, isn't it, Char?

CHARLOTTE

What's today?

PETER

Oh, don't play dumb.

CHARLOTTE

I have three degrees and a shout-out from Obama. "Dumb" is not in my vocabulary.

Peter turns away from the window to look at Charlotte.

PETER (CONT'D)

"September 12th, 2022 12:30pm - The Gazebo across from the fountain" Written in his terrible handwriting.

CHARLOTTE

I can't believe you remembered that.

PETER

I know you like the back of my hand Char, I wouldn't forget something like this.

There is a long pause.

PETER (CONT'D)

Are you going to meet him?

CHARLOTTE

No, it's not worth my time.
I have important things to do
today. Plus, it's been 10 years. He
might not even show up.

PETER

But what if he does? What do you have
to lose? (beat) You should go. I'll
have Jane clear your afternoon.

Peter starts to walk out of the room.

PETER (CONT'D)

You deserve happiness Charlotte.

Peter exits and shuts the door behind him, causing one of
Charlotte's many awards to fall off her wall and shatter on
the ground. Charlotte gasps, but then slowly makes a face
of indifference.

Charlotte walks over to her desk and opens a drawer,
pulling out half of a bar napkin. Written on the napkin
are the words: She stares at "**September 12th, 2022 12:30
pm The Gazebo across from the fountain.**" longingly.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

4- INT. COLLEGE PARTY- NIGHT

4

College law students clutch red solo cups and sway awkwardly
to house music. Charlotte, now younger, stands in the corner
alone. She is approached by two of her girlfriends, EMMA and
a younger Peter.

PETER

Let's get out of here. My friend knows
the bouncer at that bar on Livingston
and she said he'll let us in for free.

EMMA

We can't leave yet.

PETER

Oh my god, Emma. He's not coming. Now
can we go? It smells like bad weed in

here.

CHARLOTTE
Who's not coming?

PETER
The guy from her constitutional law class. The freak that invited us to this waste of time.

EMMA
Ten more minutes. Then we can leave.

PETER
If I don't suffocate first.

EMMA
Look, there he is. He's coming over. You scram. Charlotte. You stay. You're my wing-woman tonight.

CHARLOTTE
What-?

Emma hushes Charlotte and pushes Peter away. Two boys, DANIEL, 23 and KEN, 22 approach the girls.

KEN
Emma, you came.

EMMA
Of course I came.

There's a long pause as Emma and Ken smile at each other, obviously in love.

CHARLOTTE
I'm Charlotte.

Charlotte gives Emma a dirty look for not introducing her. Emma is pulled away from her trance.

EMMA
Right, sorry. This is my friend Charlotte. She's also a law student.

KEN
Charlotte, what are we drinking to tonight?

CHARLOTTE

To making six figures!

DANIEL

Amen to that!

Ken and Emma continue talking, but it is not audible. Daniel smiles at Charlotte. She smiles back.

END FLASHBACK

5- INT. SUBWAY TRAIN- DAY

5

Charlotte gets on the subway train, talking loudly into her blackberry. She pulls out the napkin from her purse and glances at her watch. The time is 12:15. Suddenly, the train comes to a screeching halt. Half the train looks up in confusion, the other half is too tired to care.

CONDUCTOR (O.S)

Sorry folks, looks like we will be experiencing some delays today.

CHARLOTTE

Fuck.

CONDUCTOR (O.S)

Expect a 10 minute delay.

Charlotte glances at her watch again.

CHARLOTTE

God damn it! God damn it! God damn it!

The other subway riders eye Charlotte. A woman clutches her child closer.

6- INT. SUBWAY TRAIN- DAY

6

The train lurches forward. Charlotte lets out a sigh of relief. The red blinking letters on the monitor tell Charlotte the time is 12:25. The train comes to a stop at Bryant Park. Charlotte pushes through the crowd of people, and sprints to the gazebo.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

7- INT. RESTAURANT- NIGHT

7

Charlotte and Daniel are sitting close to each other at an intimately lit table.

CHARLOTTE

That waiter does not deserve a 20 percent tip.

DANIEL

Oh come on, he's just having a rough night. We've all been there.

CHARLOTTE

He brought you the wrong drink twice!

DANIEL

He did me a favor because I actually liked that first drink. (beat) And clearly, he had a rough night, because he forgot to slip this into your champagne.

Daniel holds out a diamond engagement ring. Charlotte looks horrified.

CHARLOTTE

What is this?

DANIEL

Char, will you marry me?

CHARLOTTE

No, no, no, no.

DANIEL

Ok, one "no" would have done just fine.

CHARLOTTE

This is not a part of the plan.

DANIEL

What plan?

CHARLOTTE

My ten-year plan. I'm supposed to graduate law school, then become a partner, then maybe consider getting married.

Charlotte gets up from the table and begins to pace back and forth.

CHARLOTTE

Marriage is time-consuming. The hour I spend eating dinner with you could be used to study for the Bar exam. Or the two hours we spend watching a movie could be spent researching for job interviews. You've completely changed the plan... you-you knew I would say no to this. What made you think this was okay?

DANIEL

Well, I thought maybe the fact that we've been dating for three years and we are in love made me think it was ok to propose to you.

CHARLOTTE

Can we just rewind and pretend like you didn't just do that?

DANIEL

No, actually we can't, because to me it seems like I'm not apart of your ten-year plan at all.

Charlotte does not object to this.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

You act like marrying me and going to school are two diametrically opposed forces. You don't have to choose!(beat)You can have both,Charlotte. People go their whole lives looking for what we have. People pay for apps and go to bars every weekend just to get a sliver of this. You're looking happiness right in the face and you can't even see it. And, you're just going to throw it all away for some fucking piece of paper.

CHARLOTTE

That piece of paper will kickstart My entire career.

Daniel pulls out a pen and takes the napkin off of the table.

He begins writing a message.

DANIEL
Here.

Daniel hands Charlotte the napkin. Charlotte examines the writing.

CHARLOTTE
What is this?

DANIEL
If you don't believe we should be together now, maybe in ten years you will.

CHARLOTTE
I don't understand.

DANIEL
Regardless of where we are in life, no matter what, in ten years, we will meet back up. Promise?

CHARLOTTE
Promise.

DANIEL
Until then, take care of yourself, Charlotte.

Daniel walks away. Charlotte watches him leave, clutching the napkin to her heart. Her eyes begin to well up with tears.

END FLASHBACK

8- EXT. BRYANT PARK- DAY

8

Charlotte walks around the gazebo alone. She looks down at her watch. The time is now 12:40. She looks down at the napkin and reflects on her relationship with Daniel. She remembers Peter being the one to comfort her as she cried after breaking up with Daniel. Peter was the one who sat in the library with her helping her study. More and more memories come to Charlotte's mind of Peter being there for her in ways that Daniel never was. She remembers Daniel saying "You're looking happiness right in the face and you can't even see it."

CHARLOTTE

(GASP) Holy shit!

Charlotte goes to turn around and sees Peter standing behind her.

PETER

Charlotte, I wasn't sure if Daniel was going to show up but I couldn't lie to you any longer.

Peter hands Charlotte his own bar napkin. It looks old and withered. Charlotte turns it over and reads the napkin. It says "I'll be there when no one else is". Charlotte looks up and smiles.

FADE TO BLACK.