

'BOOK CLUB'

A Short Film

Written by

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1.1 INT. COMMUNITY HALL, BOOK CLUB MEETING - EVENING

1.1

A pink poster on a community bulletin-board reads 'Reading and Rosé: A New Community Book Club'.

Pan to see JOSIE (F, late 20s) at the head of a group of women sat in a circle of chairs, wine-in-hand.

JOSIE

Hi, I'm Josie. Gun to my head, my favourite book is Little Women.

Cue a stream of intros. Jump-cut to Chloe.

CHLOE

I'm Chloe, Josie's right-hand gal. Mine has to be- The Satanic Verses.

Jump-cut to SARAH (20's, F)

SARAH

Sarah. The Fault In Our Stars.

Jump-cut to EMMA (30's, F)

EMMA

Emma. Misery.

Jump-cut to CAROL (F)

CAROL

Carol. The fourth Twilight book.

Cut to JOHN (40's, M). John is extremely out-of-place.

JOHN

I'll have you know, the best book ever written is Lady Dalamide & the Crusade of the Cosmos by JF Warner.

The rest of the women look at each other in confusion.

JOSIE

It's lovely to meet you all-

JOHN

And my name is John.

Chloe shoots Josie a 'who is this guy?' look

CHLOE

Josie.

Chloe nods towards JANE (40's, F). All eyes turn to her.

JOSIE
How rude of me! Please-

JANE
Hello. I'm Jane. I'm embarrassed to say, I don't have a favourite book.

CHLOE
I bet we'll find one you'll love!

Jane smiles and nods, twinkle in her eye.

JOSIE
On that note, let's choose our first book shall we?

CHLOE
I'm thinking Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn. It's got it all: sex, lies & a complex female protagonist.

JOSIE
That'd pair nicely with a rosé!

The women in the group chuckle. John raises his hand.

JOSIE (CONT'D)
Granted, we're open to suggestions-

JOHN
Ladies, ladies. You want a complex female character? Look no further than Lady Dalamide: half-human, half supernova! What's more complex than that? Plus, Warner's a new writer. As a reader community we've got to support undiscovered talent.

The women in the group look at each other.

JOSIE
It'd certainly be... a choice.

CHLOE
Oh please. Gone Girl is the only real option here.

CAROL
Seen the film. Got the t-shirt.

SARAH
I've read it. Didn't get it.

EMMA

I did the 'cool girl' monologue for a drama school audition. I work in advertising now.

JANE

I obviously know nothing about books, but surely we should support new writers like this Warner chap?

JOHN

Here, here!

The rest of the group, apart from Chloe, nod in agreement.

CHLOE

Is this a joke?

JOSIE

I guess our first novel will be-

John stands up & pulls a naff book from his coat. Chloe flops back in her chair, swigging from her wine glass.

JOHN

Lady Dalamide & the Crusade of the Cosmos! Behold: the first chapter-

JOSIE

That's really not necessary-

1.2 John readies himself for the performance of a lifetime. 1.2

JOHN

The dawning of a new era was upon the Astrological Order, evil rulers of the Farounian Galaxy...

A montage of John passionately reading. They hang on every word. As he finishes, they're moved beyond comprehension.

JOHN (CONT'D)

With his last breath, Kreeno whispered his final prophecy: She is Lady Dalamide & she will avenge the people of Tau 69!

1.3 John closes the book. He gets a standing ovation, even from Chloe. He bows cockily with his hands clasped in front. 1.3

JOSIE

Bravo John! Where did you stumble across such a talent?

JOHN
I'm afraid I've deceived you all. I
am JF Warner.

The group gasps.

CHLOE
You son of a bitch.

Camera pulls away to show John's huge suitcase full of books.

JOHN
I've got signed copies - £14.99
each or 2 for £30.

The women hurriedly form a queue, Chloe at the front. Quick-cut of book-buying.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Don't open them until I'm gone.
Keep the magic alive.

John pockets the cash he's made and begins to leave.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Next time the paroxyl mead's on me!

The women laugh & wave John off. John exits.

JANE
Oh! He forgot his jacket!

Jane grabs John's coat and runs after him.

1.4 Cut to Jane reaching John as he hides, waiting for her to 1.4
leave. They speak like market traders now.

JANE (CONT'D)
How many sold today?

JOHN
At least twelve. Get in!

1.5 Cut back to book club. Sarah opens her book. It's blank. 1.5

1.6 Cut back to market-trader Jane and John. 1.6

JOHN (CONT'D)
They loved it in there.

JANE
They always do.

JOHN
Maybe you should write the rest of
it-

1.7 Cut back to Sarah. 1.7

SARAH
It's-it's blank.

1.8 Cut back to John and Jane. 1.8

JANE
Don't need to, babe. Save on ink.

JOHN
How long before they realise?

JANE
That lot? Two minutes max.

1.9 Cut back to the group. It's chaos. 1.9

CAROL
He was a liar!

SARAH
He Gone Girl-ed us!

EMMA
That's not what that means!

1.10 Cut back to John & Jane. John gestures towards the exit. 1.10

JOHN
Best hurry up. Lady Dalamide.

JANE
Why thank you Mr Warner.

1.11 They walk away. Cut back to the book club. 1.11

JOSIE
My god. He only wrote one chapter.

CHLOE
But what a chapter!

END