

THE BLACK TEARS OF BANGALORE

Written by

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INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

The music crescendos as the TITLE CARD appears:

"THE BLACK TEARS OF BANGALORE"

"STARRING: MARLENE O'HARA"

Black and white/silent: A woman, played by MARLENE O'HARA, dressed in 1920s garb, stands at the mercy of a terrifying MONSTER cloaked in black.

A PRINCE is trapped behind a window, unable to rescue the woman. He reaches for her and mouths, "I love you."

The woman reaches for him and mouths back, "I love you."

INT. MOVIE THEATRE - NIGHT

A man, (early 20s), sits by himself in an empty theatre watching *The Black Tear of Bangalore*. He leans forward, completely captivated by the exploits on the screen. This is TIM, timid, scrawny, and nerdy.

Tim, feeling his cellphone buzz, subtly opens his phone.

TIM

Hello?

DONNA

(on phone)

Hey! I'm almost there. Hope I haven't missed a ton.

TIM

No, it just started.

DONNA

(on phone)

I love you!

Tim pulls away from his phone. *Did she just say?...*

Tim mouths to himself, frightened: "I love you?"

Panicked, Tim hangs up the phone.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Back in the movie: the woman is in the monster's grasp. He pulls down her face and her eyes leak with black tears.

Suddenly she turns her gaze away from the monster to what seems like Tim and mouths, "hey kid."

Marlene's words are reflected in silent movie style on the screen after she mouths them.

ON MOVIE SCREEN: "HEY KID."

Tim points to himself, even more confused.

Marlene rolls her eyes. She pushes the monster away and oddly enough, he allows it.

But all of this seems quite impossible! Until...

The woman steps straight out of the picture!

INT. MOVIE THEATRE - NIGHT

Marlene now in full color lands hard on the floor of the theatre. She stands and brushes herself off. On her forehead are two clear tubes filled with black ink. She violently rips them off.

Composing herself, she turns to Tim.

MARLENE

You know, you've been on that little black box for a while. It's very rude.

Tim raises his head to see Marlene, film star of the 1920s. But she's no longer in the 1920s, she's in 2019, speaking directly to him and wiping the black tears from her face.

Tim is shocked, to put it mildly. Speechless, to put it literally.

MARLENE (CONT'D)

You look like you got one hot case of the heebie-jeebies.

Tim gulps and finally finds some words.

TIM

Well...there's just...a lot happening right now. You're...here...somehow. And my girlfriend just said-

MARLENE

The three magic words.

TIM
How did you-

MARLENE
Please, I made the same face when
Chaplin said it to me.

Tim pauses, processing what she just said.

TIM
Can you hear me from in there?

MARLENE
No. Can you hear me from out here?

Tim shakes his head.

MARLENE (CONT'D)
You're not the only one that has
gotten good at reading lips. Every
time one of you fire our reel into
the projector, Danny and Ducky and
I over there have to go through
this whole shindig. The film may be
the same but the audience is always
different. Makes it more fun to
watch you guys, it's like my own
little movie.

TIM
Who's Danny?

MARLENE
Oh, that's Danny.

She turns around to face the screen. DANNY, playing the
monster, looks to her.

MARLENE (CONT'D)
Say hi Danny!

Danny waves and mouths, "Hi!"

ON MOVIE SCREEN: "HI!"

TIM
And who's Ducky?

MARLENE
My prince, who's really more of a
dewdropper at the moment.

Ducky looks up at Marlene annoyed. He mouths, "Marlene,
you're a pill!"

ON MOVIE SCREEN: "MARLENE, YOU'RE A PILL!"

Marlene turns to Ducky.

MARLENE (CONT'D)
Love you too, you wet-blanketed,
Mrs. Grundy!

Marlene turns back around, regaining her composure.

MARLENE (CONT'D)
Anyway, this is all beside the
point. The point is, what are you
gonna do?

TIM
About what?

MARLENE
Your gal!

TIM
I wish I knew what to say. I just
wish it was like in the movies.

MARLENE
Kid, you think the pictures are so
great. Why don't you step in with
me?

Marlene gets up and walks towards the screen.

MARLENE (CONT'D)
Well, c'mon.

Tim stands, hesitating. Then Marlene snatches his hands and
pulls him into the screen.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Now in the movie, Tim sees Marlene by some bookshelves. Ducky
approaches her.

DUCKY
Are we continuing with the story
now?

MARLENE
Not yet! Gimme a minute!

Large, lovable, and clueless Danny runs up to Tim with the
excitement of a child.

DANNY
Hi, I'm Danny!

Tim shakes his hand and slowly paces behind Marlene.

MARLENE
So kid, why won't you say it back?

TIM
I-

MARLENE
I mean she said it first, she did
all the hard stuff.

TIM
It's just...scary!

MARLENE
No scarier than Danny over here!
Certainly if I can fight this
ripoff Nosferatu, you can tell her
how you feel? No offense, Danny.

DANNY
(shrugging)
Eh.

MARLENE
What do you say?

Suddenly, Ducky strides over to Marlene with an air of
superiority.

DUCKY
Marlene, I must protest! This is
highly unorthodox. We are not
shrinks. We're thespians!
Professional thespians! Or at
least, I am.

Marlene turns around to face him. They are so close, their
faces almost touch.

MARLENE
Oh please, get over yourself Ducky!
You're just a bluenosed, bimbo who
gets off when some choice bit of
calico, like myself, tells him
whats what.

DUCKY
You're scaring me, Marlene.

MARLENE

But, you like being scared.

Marlene and Ducky get closer. They almost kiss.

TIM

What is happening right now?!

Suddenly, Danny storms over to them and pulls them apart. Pushing Ducky into the glass window, shattering it.

DANNY

Get your hands off her!

Ducky rises from his fall. His nose is bleeding.

DUCKY

How dare you touch me?! I am an artist! You're nothing but a half-witted Quasimodo!

DANNY

I could be a better prince than you ever will be!

DUCKY

Right, as long as the princess keeps the lights off!

Tim outstretches his arms between Danny and Ducky but being the timid man that he is, is easily brushed aside by Marlene.

TIM

Alright, why don't we all just take a deep breath.

MARLENE

Don't worry about it Tim, dear. This isn't the first time men have fought over me. They'll tire eventually. I remember when Valentino and Barrymore eventually did, they let off steam by crawling into bed with each other.

Tim turns to Danny.

TIM

Look Danny, you obviously love Marlene. But I think there's a better way of showing it than reverting to anger.

Tim turns to Ducky.

TIM (CONT'D)

And Ducky, you obviously love Marlene as well... in your own super weird, fearful, psychosexual way. But there are better ways than fighting like this. You guys are movie characters! It will all work out! It always does. Tell her how you guys feel. That's all you can do. Right, Marlene?

Marlene leans in close to Tim.

MARLENE

I don't know, is that right Tim?

Tim looks shocked. He's surprised himself.

TIM

I've never said those words to anyone. I just want it to be perfect, like I was one of you guys, like I was in the movies.

MARLENE

Kid, it is a lot easier to say it in here, in the movies, than out there. Trust me. But in here, it doesn't mean zip. Out there, it's messy and complicated. I mean look at the three of us. If you really mean it, I mean really, truly mean it. That's the greatest gift you can give anyone. Out there it matters. In here, it's just scripted jabber and charades. It's special out there, cause it counts.

Suddenly, Danny grabs Marlene's arm.

DANNY

I love you, Marlene!

Then Ducky grabs Marlene's other arm.

DUCKY

I love you, Marlen!

Then, seeing DONNA through the screen, Marlene shouts:

MARLENE

There she is! Tim, what do you say?!

TIM

I --

INT. MOVIE THEATRE - NIGHT

Just then, Marlene pushes Tim out of the picture. He lands, hard, on the floor behind Donna, who is scanning the theatre seats trying to find Time.

TIM

-- love you, Donna!

Donna turns around to see Tim lying on the floor. Tim raises his head and quickly stands, brushing himself off.

TIM (CONT'D)

Donna! Donna, I love you!

Donna is surprised.

DONNA

Where were-

Suddenly, Tim grabs her in a warm embrace and kisses her.

Music swells as the camera turns around them.

For a second, the color fades to black and white and for just a moment, it seems as if both are lost in time.

The color returns when Tim pulls away.

Both smile. Donna grabs Tim's hand. They turn their backs to the screen to find their seat. Behind them:

On screen, Marlene wipes tears, real tears, from her eyes.

Ducky mouths to Marlene, "Back to the charades."

ON MOVIE SCREEN: "Back to the charades."

Marlene nods, wiping the tears from her eyes.

Just then, Donna and Tim turn around to face the screen, taking their seats.

On screen, Marlene screams and the monster chases her into the night.

Donna is enthralled by the film. But all Tim can do is watch Donna, contently.

THE END

