

THE DAY WE MET

Written by

Juanita Cepero

E: juanita.cepero@gmail.com
P: +1 438 725 2971

FADE IN:

EXT. BIG ISLAND, HAWAII - DAY

Establishing shot of the Big Island, its beaches, active volcanoes, cities and a tall modern HOTEL by the ocean.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

A five-star hotel room, 20th floor, ocean view. This is holiday heaven. ALBERT (58, slightly out of shape but still an attractive man) sits on the bed and ties his snickers.

JEAN (55, African American, big hair, beautiful,) stands by the window in her underwear. She takes in the view. Albert looks at her, he's smitten.

She slips into a cute summer dress.

JEAN

Honey, stop staring.

She turns around, and holds her hair up, exposing a row of tiny undone buttons on the back of the dress.

Albert buttons her up. He kisses Jean's neck.

His phone rings. The screen reads "ALLY." Jean glances at the screen and moves away.

JEAN (CONT'D)

You should pick up. She's worried.

ALBERT

She'll be fine.

He pulls Jean close and kisses her. She pushes him away playfully.

JEAN

We're going to be late.

ALBERT

Go on, I'll follow you in a second.

Jean leaves the room.

Once she's out of sight, Albert promptly runs to his luggage, reaches under the pile of perfectly folded clothes and pulls out a DIAMOND RING.

He then pulls out an OLD TIN CAN OF CHOCOLATE COVERED MACADAMIA NUTS.

Whatever he's about to do, he's excited. The can and the ring go into his backpack and he takes off after Jean.

INT. BUS - DAY

Albert sits alone at the far end of a bus full of young couples. He checks a brochure for a MACADAMIA NUT FACTORY.

Jean walks to the far end of the bus and sits by him, she holds a similar brochure.

JEAN
This is nuts.

Albert tries not to, but he can't hold his laughter. That was too cheesy. Jean gets mad.

JEAN (CONT'D)
See? It's silly.

ALBERT
It's cute.
(a beat)
It was an awful pick up line.

Albert wraps his arm around her shoulder.

ALBERT (CONT'D)
Just like the day we met.

EXT. BUS - DAY

JEAN (O.S.)
It wasn't a pick up line.

The bus takes off. We follow behind.

TITLE CARD: THE DAY WE MET

INT. OLD BUS - DAY (FLASHBACK)

SUPER: 30 years ago

An old tour bus. Happy young couples sit in pairs. YOUNG ALBERT (28, jeans, T-shirt, a chill guy) sits alone in the back of the bus, he holds a MACADAMIA NUT FACTORY BROCHURE. Outside, rain pours.

The bus stops in the middle of the road and picks up a hitchhiker: YOUNG JEAN (25, chic hippie).

She looks around and spots the only available seat, right by young Albert. She sits down.

YOUNG JEAN

Hey! Jean.

It takes a second for young Albert to realize she's introducing herself.

YOUNG ALBERT

Albert.

YOUNG JEAN

(re: the rain)

It's nuts out there, right?

Young Jean sees the brochure in young Albert's hand and blushes at her unintended pun. He can't help but smile at her.

EXT. MACADAMIA NUTS FACTORY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Rain still pours.

The bus pulls into a MACADAMIA ORCHARD, rolls all the way down and parks in front of the--

EXT/INT. OLD VISITOR CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Giggling young couples run off the bus and into the building. Young Jean and young Albert follow.

LATER--

They stand by the door frame. Rain still pours outside. Behind them, all the couples line up with bag after bag of TIN CANS OF MACADAMIA NUTS in assorted shapes and sizes.

Young Jean, still not completely dry, extends her hand out and feels the rain on her skin.

Young Albert stares at his brochure. Under the ORCHARD TOUR title there's fine print that reads: *Subject to weather conditions. No reimbursement will be given for program adjustments.*

YOUNG ALBERT
 (sighs)
 Just my luck.

Then-- young Jean's stomach ROARS. She smiles awkwardly, and reaches into her backpack, looking for something-- doesn't find it.

She kneels on the floor and turns her backpack upside down. Pens, notebooks, socks, receipts fall to the floor.

YOUNG JEAN
 No. no. No.

YOUNG ALBERT
 Everything Okay?

YOUNG JEAN
 Can't find my wallet.

Her stomach roars again. With a smug smile, Young Albert reaches into his backpack. He digs in, realizing--

He also drops to his knees emptying the contents of his bag on the floor. No wallet either.

They turn to each other-- then to a TIN CAN OF CHOCOLATE COVERED MACADAMIA NUTS-- then back to each other again.

INT. VISITOR CENTER - DAY

BACK TO PRESENT DAY. Albert and Jean stand in front of a pile of TIN CANS OF CHOCOLATE COVERED MACADAMIA NUTS. This place hasn't changed much in the past 30 years.

They whisper to one another.

JEAN
 Albert, this makes no sense.

ALBERT
 What do you mean? It's romantic.

JEAN
 No, it was romantic. Right now it's petty theft.

A STORE CLERK (45, native Hawaiian) walks by them. They awkwardly smile. It's clear to the man that they're up to no good-- but he walks away.

JEAN (CONT'D)
 Let's just pay for it.

ALBERT
That's not the plan.

JEAN
It's too late for romantic plans,
Albert. Let's go.

Albert is really hurt.

ALBERT
No. I want to do this. I want you
to know I can do this.

Jean rolls her eyes.

ALBERT (CONT'D)
(mad)
Don't do that.

JEAN
Do what?

ALBERT
You know what, roll your eyes like
that. I'm doing this for YOU.

Jean storms off genuinely mad. Albert is conflicted. He looks back and forth from nuts to Jean, from nuts to--

INT. OLD VISITOR CENTER - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Young Albert and young Jean look at each other, then at the pile of METAL CANS.

They look around, spotting a couple of STORE CLERKS, one of them, a younger version of the one they see in the present.

Albert slips a can of nuts under his T-shirt. It's pretty evident he's stealing something.

He walks past the STORE CLERK and towards the door. Young Jean follows close behind.

The door is a few steps away. He can see it's still raining outside, but patches of sun have begun to draw on the ground.

Albert steps out of the store--

BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP, BEEP.

INT/EXT. VISITOR CENTER - DAY

BACK TO THE SUNNY PRESENT. Albert stands at the door of the Visitor Center. The security alarm is BEEPING--

He looks at the two plastic columns at each side of the door. An anti theft system-- that wasn't there 30 years ago.

And this time, Jean is not behind him, the STORE CLERK is.

STORE CLERK

I knew it was you. I never forget a thief.

(off Albert's look)

Photographic memory.

Albert turns to Jean who waits for him outside.

She sees he's in trouble, but instead of concerned, she's slightly amused by this turn of events. She's endearingly mean, so she sits on a chair she finds nearby and leaves Albert on his own.

The store clerk takes Albert to the back of the Visitor Center and into--

INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Albert sits at a desk floded by family pictures. Kids, kids, and more kids.

The store clerk sits opposite to him, in front of a name plate that reads: Kealamauloa Kahananui, Manager.

MANAGER

Mister--

He waits.

ALBERT

Smith. John.

The manager gives him a skeptical glance.

ALBERT (CONT'D)

My parents were history buffs.

(a beat)

Look, I can pay for the nuts.

(silence)

I'll even buy more cans.

The manager places Albert's backpack on his desk and takes out the can of nuts-- then, the OLD CAN.

Albert reaches for it with urgency, but the manager holds onto it.

MANAGER

Mister--

ALBERT

(interrupting)

John.

MANAGER

Right, John. You seem like a reasonable enough person, so I hope you understand my concerns about letting you go back out there when you're telling me you're stealing nuts for the thrill of it.

Albert taps his fingers on the desk.

ALBERT

Mister Keeeeeaaaaluuum--
Ka-ka-hhuuuuniaaaa--

The manager interrupts Albert's sad pronunciation attempt.

MANAGER

Smith.

Albert smiles. At least the man has a sense of humour. Albert points to the old can of nuts.

ALBERT

Mr. Smith. You see, that can over there is the reason I met my wife. Stealing your nuts brought us together.

The manager clears his throat. That didn't land as he expected.

A beat of awkward silence.

He looks at the ocean of family pictures on the desk, one of the pictures is of Mister Kealamauloa Kahananui and what Albert assumes to be his wife and three kids.

ALBERT (CONT'D)

(re: wife)

She's beautiful.

The Manager looks at the picture. He smiles at the sight of his family.

ALBERT (CONT'D)

You know how it is. You get busy with work, and life, and kids. And after a while you get tired, and you forget to say thank you, and I love you. And then you lose the person you love and--

(a beat)

I'm sorry. Please. I'll pay for the nuts.

The manager looks at the two cans of nuts, thinking--

CUT TO:

EXT. VISITOR CENTER - DAY

Albert walks out of the Visitor Center with a the OLD CAN in one hand and the purchased can in the other. He's visibly embarrassed.

Jean waits patiently on the chair Albert last saw her in. She smirks playfully.

Albert stops in his tracks as he realizes--

ALBERT

Where's the bus?

JEAN

They left. Not part of your plan?

Albert drops the can of nuts he just bought on the floor. He turns to Jean, angry, frustrated--

He walks away, towards the--

EXT. MACADAMIA ORCHARD - DAY

Jean follows, calling after him.

JEAN

Albert. I'm sorry, honey, that was mean. Albert, come on.

He keeps walking away. Every step transforms the anger and frustration into sadness, defeat.

ALBERT

I can't do this.

His voice trembles, his eyes well up. He takes out the diamond ring and offers it to Jean. She doesn't take it.

JEAN

Albert--

ALBERT

Please don't leave me.

Jean holds his face in her hands and smiles.

JEAN

That's not how it works, honey.
You'll be okay.

ALBERT

No. I won't. I don't want to be okay with this. We are supposed to be together, I was supposed to make you happy--

He takes a breath. He points to the Visitor Center.

ALBERT (CONT'D)

--to steal nuts for you.

Jean smiles.

ALBERT (CONT'D)

Honey, the nuts were a bad idea to begin with.

EXT. OLD MACADAMIA ORCHARD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Young Jean throws up by a macadamia nut tree. Young Albert keeps her company.

YOUNG ALBERT

You okay?

YOUNG JEAN

This was a bad idea.

EXT. MACADAMIA ORCHARD - DAY

Jean laughs. Albert can't help but smile. Good memories.

JEAN

Come on. One last stop. This one's important.

ALBERT

We're miles away, Jean. We can't catch up with the bus. You were right, this was a silly idea to begin with.

Jean takes in the view. The Macadamia Orchard looks exactly like it looked 30 years ago.

JEAN

I always loved your silly ideas.

Jean sits by one of the trees. She looks up, at the light filtering through the branches.

JEAN (CONT'D)

It wasn't your fault, you have to know that. It wasn't anyone's fault. It's just life. I'm not saying you have to forget about us, but it's time to move on, Albert.

He sits by her. Jean takes Albert's wedding ring off his finger and places it on his hand, by the ring she refused to take.

JEAN (CONT'D)

You're supposed to be happy. That's what you're supposed to do.

Jean looks around and spots TWO BIKES by the Visitor Center's wall. She lights up.

JEAN (CONT'D)

And you're supposed to still have a thousand silly ideas.

Albert follows her eye line.

EXT. VISITOR CENTER - DAY

Albert and Jean tiptoe past the door and STEAL the bikes.

As they jump on the saddles, giggling, the Manager steps out of the Visitor Center and spots them.

MANAGER

You have to be kidding me! Mr. Smith. Stop right there! MR. SMITH!

Too late. They take off.

He runs after them, but they leave the man behind.

EXT. ROADS OF BIG ISLAND - DAY

They ride the bikes down a Big Island highway. The sun is out, the breeze is warm. They feel young again.

FLASHBACK-- The old tour bus speeds down the highway. Young Jean's hand hangs out the window. The sunlight hitting her skin.

PRESENT-- Jean looks up to the sky, enjoying the sun. Albert smitten by her.

FLASHBACK-- Inside the bus, young Jean and young Albert talk, laugh. He reaches out and holds her hand.

BACK TO PRESENT--

Jean slows down and rides her bike by Albert's. She reaches out and holds his hand. They both smile.

Down the road, they spot the tour bus parked by the entrance of a GORGEOUS BEACH.

Albert abruptly stops his bike in the middle of the road. Jean stops a few feet away.

ALBERT

I don't think I can do this.

Jean smiles and takes off, teasing him, inviting him to follow her. He has no choice but to do so.

EXT. BEACH - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Sun's up, skies are clear. Young Jean and young Albert run off the old tour bus and towards the ocean.

They're ecstatic. They splash each other, playfully. Young Jean pushes young Albert, he stumbles back into the water.

She laughs out loud. Young Albert pulls her into the water as well--

YOUNG JEAN

(laughing)

No, no, no.

Splash. And now young Albert is holding her close. They're really close. They kiss-- their first kiss.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Albert stands in the ocean, ALONE.

He looks at the two rings in his hand.

He then takes out the OLD TIN CAN and opens it. It's full of ASHES.

He takes a deep breath-- and throws the ashes in the ocean.

ALBERT
Goodbye, Jean.

He stands there, for a second too long, staring at the horizon, listening to the waves and the wind.

He sighs-- then, smiles. Absolute peace.

He exits the water and calls Ally back.

ALLY (V.O.)
Dad?

ALBERT
I'm going home.

ALLY (V.O.)
Okay. You okay?

He turns to the ocean one last time. Paradise.

ALBERT
I'm okay-- I'll be okay.

He leaves, but we stay there for a while, taking in the view, the peace, and the empty OLD TIN CAN resting on the sand.

FADE OUT.