

NOW, HERE, THIS

"Happy Birthday, Paul"

written by

Rachel Pollon

SERIES TITLE

"Happy Birthday, Paul"

CAST

RUBY..... (ME)
THURSTON..... (PAUL)
ROBERT..... (PETER)
NINA..... (AMALGAMATION OF A FEW)
LORI..... (OOPS, FORGOT TO CHANGE LORI'S NAME)
NEIL..... (EX-BOYFRIEND)

INT. THURSTON'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

CLOSE UP ON JOHN THURSTON, LATE TWENTIES, ARTY AND FUN. HE CARES ABOUT HIS JOB BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF ALSO ENJOYING HIMSELF. HE AND RUBY ARE IN MID-CONVERSATION. JOHN'S FOREHEAD HAS A SMUDGED, GRAY DOT ON IT.

THURSTON

You should come tonight. We're going to welcome Lent. If we leave right after work there'll still be enough room at the bar. You know where Cloudy Dick's is, right?

RUBY

Oh yes.

THURSTON

So, did Bitch, I mean Amanda, tell you what we have going on here?

RUBY

No. She just told me the Art department needed me.

THURSTON

Okay. Well, our assistant is taking a couple of mental health days so basically you just need to take over for her. We're in the middle of three projects. Cornish Game Hen's advertising materials, Prohibited's CD package, and sales sheets for our summer releases.

(MORE)

THURSTON (CONT'D)

If you could field calls for me and Robert it would be really helpful. Get everyone's name and as much information out of them as you can so that maybe you can answer some of their questions. If we don't actually have to talk to people we get a lot more done.

ROBERT FREED, THURSTON'S BOSS, ENTERS.

ROBERT

Hey.

THURSTON

Hey. Robert, this is Ruby. She's the new floater. She's going to fill in for Pam while she's "out."

ROBERT

Yeah? Well welcome, and get comfortable. I don't think she's going to come back any time soon. At least voluntarily.

THURSTON

She's fine. That outburst was totally out of character.

ROBERT

(NOTICING) You've got some schmutz on your forehead.

AS ROBERT CROSSES INTO HIS OFFICE, THURSTON GETS UP TO LOOK AT HIS REFLECTION IN THE GLASS OF SOME FRAMED POSTER OF ONE OF THE BANDS (TBD) ON THE LABEL.

THURSTON

(calling after him) It's called Good
Friday.

HE LICKS HIS THUMB AND TRIES TO RUB AWAY THE DOT. HE'S INTERRUPTED BY THE PHONE RINGING.

SFX: PHONE RINGING.

THURSTON (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

I'm going to have to think of
something besides vanity to give up
for Lent.

RUBY

Do you want me to answer that?

THURSTON

No, I've got it.

THURSTON PICKS UP THE PHONE.

THURSTON (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Art Department... (LOUDLY) What?...

HE TAKES THE RECEIVER AWAY FROM HIS EAR AND PUTS IT ABOUT ARMS LENGTH AWAY FROM HIS MOUTH.

THURSTON (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

(LOUDER) I can't hear you... Call
back when you're over the hill.

HE HANGS UP.

THURSTON (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

I hate that asshole. He's Fancy
Free's new manager.

(MORE)

THURSTON (CONT'D)

Always calls when he's coming over the canyon. I'm not going to get cut off and repeat everything twice.

RUBY GRINS WIDELY.

INT. CLOUDY DICK'S - LATER THAT NIGHT

IT'S AN OLDER BAR -- DARK, WITH RED BOOTHS AND A GREAT JUKEBOX THAT PLAYS ANY SONG WE WANT IT TO.

MUSIC CUE: "BAD DAYS" BY THE FLAMING LIPS.

THE RPM CREW ARE AT THE BAR. SOME SIT ON STOOLS THAT HAVE BEEN MOVED AWAY FROM THE BAR TO FORM A SORT OF SEMI-CIRCLE. SOME ARE STANDING, LEANING ON THE BAR, ETC. THEY ARE PRETTY TIPSY AND WE FIND THEM IN MID-CONVERSATION:

NINA

No, I have a better one. Remember Imperioli's old assistant, Cathy?

THURSTON

"Catheter"?

NINA

Yeah.

RUBY LAUGHS AND IN DOING SO CHOKES ON HER DRINK FOR A SECOND.

LORI

Whatever happened to her?

THURSTON

I heard she married the ugly guy in Aerosmith. (CATCHES IT) I know -- which one is that? I have no idea.

NINA

Anyway, my first week, Cathy got me high during our lunch break.

(MORE)

NINA (CONT'D)

She said it totally helped her concentrate on the phones and I should try it. (SHE TAKES A SIP OF HER MARGARITA) I fucked up every message I took. I threw most of them away because I knew they were useless.

THURSTON

Maybe you didn't hear me. I hung up on Madonna.

RUBY

(BLOWING OUT CIGARETTE SMOKE) So, you're saying I shouldn't feel so bad about my interview.

NINA

No. (SIPS, SMILES) You were busted, I wasn't.

TOM AND NEIL ENTER.

RUBY

Hey!

THEY AD-LIB HELLOS. NEIL COMES OVER TO RUBY AND PLANTS A KISS ON HER CHEEK.

RUBY (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

How was practice?

NEIL

Good. I played them the song I've been working on. They liked it.

(MORE)

NEIL (CONT'D)

How's it going here? (HE SMILES
BECAUSE HE KNOWS SHE'S A BIT TOASTED)

RUBY

It's really good. (WHISPERS) Everyone
is really great.

NEIL

I'm happy for you.

HE BRUSHES SOME STRAY BANGS BEHIND HER EAR.

RUBY

You should get a drink.

NEIL

I will. You need anything?

RUBY

Nope. I'm great. Everything I could
want. (BEAT) I don't think I've ever
said that before. You've gotta keep
me in Lemon Drops.

NEIL SMILES AND MOVES OFF TO WHERE TOM IS AND THEN TO THE
BAR. WE PULL AWAY AS THURSTON ELBOWS RUBY TO MAKE SURE SHE'S
PAYING ATTENTION TO SOME STORY HE'S GOING TO BEGIN.

THURSTON

Doesn't Ruby remind you of Chloe?

NINA

Yeah, kinda.

THURSTON

Chloe is a trip. A good trip, but a
trip... you'll like her.

RUBY (V.O.)

And so my new life began. Filled with promise and optimism. Sure, there were glitches. And bound to be some more. But that's to be expected, right? The journey is the adventure... Or maybe it's the adventure is in the journey? I need to look it up... I really hope the music supervisor doesn't put a Journey song here.

AS THE LAST FEW LINES OF "BAD DAYS" BECOMES LOUDER ("ALL YOUR BAD DAYS WILL END...") WE:

FADE OUT.