

WHEN 'HE' INTERVENED

Written by

Nihal Vasudevan

Nihal.vasudevan@nyfa.edu
+1 (949) 232 6705

MIRA, a girl in her late twenties is walking hurriedly on a sidewalk. She has short hair and is dressed in a sky blue dress and is carrying a beige handbag. She looks at her watch and continues speed walking.

NEIL, a guy in mid-twenties sits on the steps of a restaurant's main entrance. He's wearing a blue shirt and beige pants and looks at the time on his phone while continuing to look around anxiously.

Mira continues walking until she reaches the front of a restaurant and see's NEIL sitting on a step in front of the main door, absent-minded, scrolling through his phone.

NEIL
(rolling his eyes)
I almost thought that you stood me
up!

MIRA
I was 'almost' going to do that.
Would you mind closing your fly
before we go inside or are you
suggesting something.

Neil looks at his open zip and then back at Mira. He awkwardly closes it shaking his head. Mira tries to control her laughter. As he gets up he leans towards her for a hug. She retracts, then moves closer finally giving him an awkward half-hug. They both stand awkwardly in front of the restaurant when he opens the door for her and directs her inside.

Neil and Mira get seated on a table with purple flowers on it.

NEIL
My dad had the same problem.

MIRA
(amused)
What??

NEIL
He would forget to close his zip
before getting out of the house and
my mom would have to remind him,
every single time. Don't blame me
,it's hereditary.

Mira laughs loudly and looks around trying to control her laughter. She shakes her in agreement sarcastically.

MIRA

I blame your dad. But nevertheless,
too much information, Neil.

NEIL

Well, I'm an open book.

MIRA

Correction, you are an open fly,
Neil.

Mira pointing at his crotch. They both laugh.

4

INT. RESTAURANT -NIGHT

4

The waiter arrives to their table looking extremely enthusiastic.

WAITER

Hope you guys are having a great
time. What can I get you today. I
must suggest we have some great
wines, Mark West Pinot Noir,
Woodwork Cabernet, La...

Neil gets scared hearing the word 'wine'. He immediately interjects.

NEIL

Let me stop you there, sir. No
wines.

MIRA

You see, my friend Neil can't
handle his wine. So no wines for us
please.

Neil shakes his head seeming sorry. Mira breaks the fourth wall.

MIRA (CONT'D)

You see, a few weeks ago I and this
gentleman went on a date..

WAITER

I'll take it from here...

Mira and Neil freeze.

WAITER (CONT'D)

And Neil ordered a bottle of our finest Merlot. Mira was wearing a beautiful "white" dress..Mamma Mia she was looking adorable...

He pauses for a few seconds recollecting how beautiful she looked. He takes a long breath.

CUT TO:

5

INT. RESTAURANT(FLASHBACK) -NIGHT

5

Neil and Mira seated in the same restaurant but at a different table, having a great time. They are sipping their Merlot and laughing. Neil swirls his glass of wine.

MIRA

Do you know why they do that?

NEIL

Nope. Always thought it was cool to do so.

MIRA

Swirling your glass of wine draws more oxygen into it thus letting it breathe and making it less dry, to taste.

Neil shakes his head taking in all the information still looking at his glass while swirling it.

NEIL

Hmmm..Like I said, you..

MIRA

..learn something new everyday.

They laugh and clink their glasses in approval. He clinks her glass too hard and drops all the wine on her dress.

NEIL

Oh shit..shit..shit..I'm so sorry.
I really didn't mean to. Here let me wipe it for you.

He stands up, takes a napkin and tries to wipe it for her. Mira closes her eyes in frustration, trying hard not to lose her cool.

MIRA

STOP! Just stop. You ruined it!!

She gets up and storms out of the restaurant. Neil shakes his head in disappointment. He looks around and see's an old woman looking at him, shaking her head, in disgust.

CUT TO:

6

INT. RESTAURANT -NIGHT

6

Neil's face sunken in disappointment.

Mira and Neil un-freeze.

MIRA

Yeah, so no wine please. We'll go with two glasses of sparkling water instead.

WAITER

Good choice Madame. That can't do much harm. By the way you're looking amazing, as usual.

He winks at her. She smiles back winking back at him. Neil frowns looking at both of them. The waiter leaves. Neil looks at the waiter angrily as he leaves. He looks back at Mira and smiles.

NEIL

Let me ask you one thing. Why did you choose this restaurant again?

Mira smiles at him sheepishly.

MIRA

You see, this place is not too romantic and neither too casual. It's the right balance of both.

Mira gestures balance with her hands.

MIRA (CONT'D)

I didn't want to give you the wrong idea.

Neil looks at Mira in disapproval.

NEIL

But..aren't we on a 'date'?

He gesture with his hands "date".

Mira leans in trying to make him understand.

MIRA

Choosing a romantic ambience is like...handing over the reigns to you. It's basically half your job done.

Neil, unable to understand.

NEIL

Let me get this right. So you'd like to have control over your surroundings and the person you're going to get into bed with??

Neil suddenly realizing the inappropriateness of what he just said.

MIRA

What??

NEIL

It...is an expression. In business lingo it means..

Mira losing her calm.

MIRA

I understand the expression and what you were expressing!!

Neil place his hand on his forehead. He suddenly lifts his head trying to change the topic.

NEIL

I never really got a chance to apologize properly. By the way that white dress looked great on you..

MIRA

..i use it wipe my floor now, thanks to you.

7

INT. RESTAURANT -NIGHT

7

The waiter arrives with a bottle of sparkling water and pours Mira a glass. Mira takes her phone out and is busy typing a text. As he pours Neil some water, he smiles and with his eyes tries to suggest him to move closer to her. Neil fails to understand. He bends over whispers in his ear.

WAITER

You might want to sit closer to her.

Neil tries to shimmy closer to Mira. She lifts her head at the same moment and thinks he was going to kiss her. The waiter quickly looks away and leaves.

MIRA
What the hell is wrong with you?
I..need a minute.

She gets up and storms to the restroom. Neil places both his hands on his head.

8

INT. WOMEN'S RESTROOM -NIGHT

8

Mira enters the restroom fuming with anger. She slams the counter and shrieks in pain from the impact. A waitress enters the restroom. Mira quickly tries to act normal as the waitress washes her hand. She smiles at Mira.

WAITRESS
Relax. He doesn't seem all that bad.

MIRA
You saw what he just did there.

The waitress places a hand on Mira. She feels a sudden calm.

MIRA (CONT'D)
You work here? Haven't seen you around before?

The waitress snaps a finger and turns into the waiter who was serving them before. He smiles at her.

MIRA (CONT'D)
Holy (beep)!! (Beep)(Beep)(Beep)
Who the (beep) are you?

Mira shocked shuffles through her bag, grabs her pepper-spray and sprays it all over GOD's face. God laughs loudly.

WAITER/GOD
I don't blame you humans. It is fun to curse. But i'm afraid(chuckles), not in my presence.

Mira, in a state of shock.

MIRA
You..you're...GOD

WAITER/GOD
Yep.

MIRA
But..but..you're..

Mira pointing at his face trying to not say something inappropriate.

WAITER/GOD
(laughing)
You mean..Why I look like this?

God snaps his finger and turns into a waitress.

WAITRESS/GOD
After all I made you humans, and
all races are the same to me. It's
you guys who made it complicated.

Mira still confused. She place a hand on Mira's shoulders.

WAITRESS/GOD (CONT'D)
Mira, you need to stop being so
controlling. Leave that to me.

Mira looking offended.

MIRA
What do you mean? You saw what
happened there. That guy is a
creep!

GOD laughs loudly.

WAITRESS/GOD
Alright. Lesson number one. All men
are creeps. Some, try their best
not come across as one. Go back in
there, try not to snap at him,
order something nice and have a
conversation with him.

9

INT. RESTAURANT -NIGHT

9

Mira goes back inside. Neil smiles at her holding his ears, trying to apologize. She shows him her teeth trying hard to fake a smile. She sits opposite him. The waiter arrives at their table.

WAITER
Would you guys like to order
something?

MIRA
I'll have one of your Butter cakes
with ice-cream.

Neil, confused.

NEIL
We haven't ordered main course yet?

Mira raises her eyebrow, holding her butter knife at Neil.

MIRA
I like having my dessert first. You
have a problem with that?

Neil raises his hand again, submitting.

NEIL
Not at all. I think it's a great
idea. Would you also like some
curry with that?

Neil laughs bobbing his head, looking at the waiter thinking
what he said was funny. The waiter nods his in disapproval.

MIRA
I can't believe you just said that
and what's with that head-bob.

She drops her hand towel on the table and stands up. Neil is
about to say something but she holds her finger against her
lips gesturing him to shut-up and storms back to the
restroom. Neil looks at the waiter in shock.

WAITER
That was strike two, Neil.

NEIL
Wait, how do you know my name?

The waiter looks at Neil amused.

WAITER
You're screwing everything up here
and that's what you're concerned
about.

The waiter leaves. Neil shakes his head disappointed with
himself.

Mira, sitting on the counter with God beside her.

MIRA

But..but..what are you doing here,
God. I mean you're welcome
here..but..I..I..don't even pray
very often.

WAITRESS/GOD

(calm)
And do you think I care, Mira. I
didn't make humans to feed my ego.
It's you humans who fight wars in
the name of religion.

MIRA

But..but..you're GOD. You could
have stopped wars..if..if you
wanted to.

GOD smiles.

WAITRESS/GOD

Yes I could, at the snap of a
finger.

He snaps His fingers.

GOD

But, what's the point then. I
created humans to co-exist. I don't
wish to be over involved in your
lives, which is why I enabled you.
I gave you guys a conscience, to
decide for yourselves.

Mira, thoughtful. She plays with her hair as she tries to
process the information.

11 **INT. MEN'S RESTROOM -NIGHT**

11

The waiter and Neil stand adjacent to each other in front of
the urinal.

GOD

There's no point crying over spilt
wine, Neil. Which is why you got a
second chance. You're one step away
from ruining it all.

Neil flushes and walks towards the wash basin. God appears
beside him, shocking him.

NEIL

Dude, you're freaking me out.

GOD

Good. Listen to me. You're going to go back and just be yourself. Stop trying to impress her. Just speak to her, get to know her and show some Respect!

God snaps his finger and Neil lands on his seat at the table.

12

INT. RESTAURANT -NIGHT

12

NEIL

What the hell??

The waiter walks towards Neil with the butter cake in his hand.

WAITER

Here's your Butter cake, sir.
Enjoy.

He smiles and winks at Neil. Neil shrugs his shoulder looking at the cake. Ice-cream melting of the sides of the cake. He can't control himself and takes a bite.

NEIL

Fuck, its so good. Mm..

CUT TO:

13

INT. WOMEN'S RESTROOM -NIGHT

13

Mira looks at the waitress with the corner of her eye, observing her.

MIRA

No offense, but men are stupid.

God laughs loudly. He composes himself.

WAITRESS/GOD

Men are lonely, Mira.
(beat)

CUT TO:

14

INT. RESTAURANT -NIGHT

14

Neil taking multiple bites of the Butter cake, closing his eyes and enjoying it.

GOD (V.O.)

And stupid. Let on their own, they
fight. Which is why I created
Women, to take care of them and
drive some sense into them. But
then they started fighting amongst
themselves, for said women...and
yet you blame me for intervening.

Mira smiles.

GOD

Don't lose hope in men, Mira.
(beat)

She shrugs her shoulder.

GOD (CONT'D)

If you do, there're always women.

God winks at Mira, snaps her finger and disappears.

MIRA

Fuck...Wow..

Mira ties her hair into a bun, smiles and leaves the
restroom.

15

INT. RESTAURANT -NIGHT

15

Mira walks towards the table and see's Neil devouring the
Butter cake. She smiles. He looks up at her awkwardly chewing
and smiles back at her. She sits beside him.

MIRA

Looks like someone started without
me.

Neil smiles cuts a big piece of the cake with a fork and
holds it in front of her mouth. She opens her mouth and takes
a bite.

NEIL

I'm sorry, Mira but this cake is
delicious.

Mira smiles as she chews the big piece awkwardly and smiles
at him. She closes her eyes and enjoys the cake.

MIRA

Hmm..so good.

The waiter smiles, looking at the two of them enjoying the cake.

16

EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT -NIGHT

16

Neil and Mira walk towards her car.

NEIL

I'm really sorry for what happened earlier.

Mira smiles and holds Neil's hand. He looks at her and smiles back as he tries to lean in for a kiss. Mira places a hand on his chest gently pushing him behind.

MIRA

Whoa, too soon, soldier.

Neil retracts.

NEIL

Look, I'm sorry but I thought...

Mira laughs. She looks at him and gently pecks him on his cheek.

MIRA

Till next time.

Neil shrugs his shoulder and smiles. He extends his arms for a hug with a sympathetic look on his face. She obliges. She gently lets go and enters her car. Neil watches her drive past. His phone beeps. He takes his phone and looks at it.

Message from Dad.

"So did something happen *smile emoji*"

He looks at the message, smiles and walks away.

FADE OUT.