TALL GIRL

by

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INT. CLASSROOM - AFTERNOON

Evan Nutdale, a slightly bookish English teacher in his late thirties is addressing his GCSE class.

Evan

It’s the very essence of love. Whenever Shakespeare wrote of love then tragedy was never far away, and Romeo and Juliet must be seen as the greatest example of this. I’m sure everyone here has felt that surging passion at one time or another...

He addresses a pupil, Arif, who’s nodding off.

Evan (Cont’d)

Even you, Arif.

The class laugh and a bell sounds the end of the day.

Evan (Cont’d)

Okay - Hope that was topical enough for you. Happy Valentine’s Day all.

The class begins to file out.

Arif

Yo sir, is you romancing a special lady tonight?

Evan

I shall be cooking Steak Diane and enjoying Annie Hall with my wife - as we’ve done for the last fourteen years. She loves the bit with the lobsters.

Arif

(Walking out and muttering to his friends)

Who da fuck is Danny Hall, blud?

Evan smiles to himself and packs his briefcase.

EXT. COUNTRY LANE - EVENING

Evan pulls up along side a gigantic shed at the end of a country lane. He goes to the boot of his car and removes a small foldaway table, a bottle and some plates covered with tinfoil.
INT. SHED - EVENING

The shed is in darkness. Evan calls out - his voice echoing around the cavernous expanse.

EVAN
Jenny! Sorry I’m so late - everywhere had sold out of fizz. I’m afraid we’re going to have to make do with Asti.

Evan pulls a lever on a wall and a dozen strip lights flicker to life, revealing an enclosure roughly half the size of a football pitch, covered with straw and surrounded by a high fence. Standing in the centre, eating from a bag of hay suspended from a roof girder is JENNY, a giraffe. Evan opens a gate, steps inside and begins setting the table for dinner.

EVAN (CONT’D)
If I put the laptop here will you be able to see? I can angle the screen up quite a bit? I thought we could eat first then watch the film.

Jenny begins bounding around the enclosure with long, loping strides.

EVAN (CONT’D)
(Laying the table)
Remember last year? I still think about it. I mean I know you kicked out and shattered my pelvis, but... well... I still think about it. You were as pretty that day as the day we first met.

Evan pops the cork in the fizz and Jenny spooks. She whacks her head into the table, knocking the food all over the floor, which she then begins to eat. Evan picks up the laptop and inserts the DVD.

EVAN (CONT’D)
I wasn’t that hungry. Let’s just watch the film.

INT. SHED - EVENING

Jenny is lying down, munching straw and licking herself. Evan leans against her, sipping his Asti. Jenny emits a long, deafening fart.

EVAN
Look darling! Here come the lobsters!