

**INT. LIVING ROOM - VALENTINES DAY**

Jeff and Erik turn around to find a FIGURE WIELDING A CORKSCREW and wearing a PINK MASK with a heart painted around the face and adorned with flowers and branch-like antlers.

MASKED FIGURE  
Sweetheart slayer!!!

Jeff and Erik SCREAM. The figure removes their mask to reveal Alexandria/Alex (late 20s and Jeff's girlfriend). She is confident and quick witted with a dry, sarcastic demeanor.

Jeff joins in laughing. Only Erik is left unamused.

ALEX  
Oh my god, you guys are too easy. You realize your back door is literally always unlocked? If I really was the Sweetheart Slayer I'd be murdering the shit out of both of you right now.

Alex tosses her Sweetheart Slayer mask onto the nearby table.

ERIK  
Great to see you, Alex.

ALEX  
Wow. Nice outfit, what do you have? A job interview?

JEFF  
Young Erik here has a blind date tonight.

ALEX  
Wait.

ALEX (CONT'D)  
You didn't like order her from a catalog from Russia or anything did you? That happened to the old man across the street from me. Blew his life savings to pay for her to come here and become a citizen then waited and waited, but she never showed. Years pass and the old man dies of a heart attack. Nobody at his funeral but a few of us who knew him... and up walks this woman dressed in black Russian furs. Beautiful like a starlet out of an old movie. No one new her.

(MORE)

ALEX (CONT'D)

She just stood there, crying. Never said a word.

ERIK

Um, no. We just met online.

She expects a bigger reaction than she gets.

ALEX

Whatever. I guess it takes balls to go out with someone you've never met.

JEFF

You're just in time anyway, we're telling Valentines stories.

ALEX

Ooh! Stories! I almost forgot!

Erik is confused. Is this really an aspect of Valentines only he doesn't know about?

ERIK

It's your turn, if you've got a good one.

ALEX

Well, since we're still waiting for Erik's catfish to arrive, I think I've got something.

ERIK

I'm not being catfished.

ALEX

Did you know the real Saint Valentine was decapitated? Had his head lopped off by Roman soldiers on that fateful February the 14th. People don't talk about it, but he knew better than most how deep love's blade can cut.