

High On Etsy Ep 5

By

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LOU

Go, go!

'Them' comes closer, walking with a distinctive limp. It's a man with a scraggly beard, dark glasses and hat. Despite the fact that's it's overcast and foggy. Lou stands. She is nervous but holds her ground.

MAN

Babygrass?

LOU

(Cheerfully)

That's me!

He stops and waits. Lou rolls her eyes.

'John Wayne'?

'John Wayne' looks side to side and sits down on the bench. Lou joins him.

LOU

20 soaps and 40 amulets.

He stares at her. Lou looks around nervously for Reuben but he isn't to be found. He reaches into his overcoat and withdraws...an envelope. Hands it to Lou. She rips it open and counts it. All there. She pulls out a receipt book and writes him out a receipt. He eyes it suspiciously.

MAN

I don't think that's wise.

LOU

Well, okay. You have a good day,
sir, and --

He snatches the box from her lap and strides away.

-- thanks for shopping Babygrass.

Reuben reappears, eyeing the disappearing figure.

LOU

What the fuck, Reuben? You're here
as my backup! What if he had been
some crazy pistol-wielding lunatic!

REUBEN

Hey, I'm not your bodyguard. I'm
not even on duty. This is an abuse
of the uniform.

She produces a thermos of hot tea.

LOU

Tea?

REUBEN

Joe Lean makes a bulk purchase from you in a public park and you're not worried?

LOU

I don't know what that means.

REUBEN

You were at college, I guess. Joe got shot in the leg answering a call about a dog-fighting colony in Tukwila. He's the county sheriff, Lou. And he was the best man at my parents' wedding.

LOU

So, do you think he's providing Babygrass products to...cops?

REUBEN

Men don't normally buy bulk boutique soap.

LOU

Business is business, Reuben. It's not my job to say who can or can't purchase my products.

REUBEN

How many left?

LOU

Let's see, who's next?

They walk toward Reuben's car. She checks a list.
'Bonnie Clyde'.

She smiles.

We should start a matchmaking service!

INT. REUBEN'S CAR - AN HOUR LATER

Reuben drives them to their next drop, outside the pizza joint, which is across from the bistro.

LOU

How did you and Gia meet?

His fingers tighten on the wheel, jaw clenching.

(CONTINUED)

REUBEN

She dated my ex-girlfriend before I did.

She can't think of a good response.

LOU

Oh.

(Beat.)

You wanna grab a drink tonight?

Reuben stares at her.

I'm not hitting on you or anything,
I just...if you wanted to hang out.

REUBEN

Can't. I have to practice for my
gig tomorrow and I'm with my
daughter tonight.

LOU

(Overly cheerful)

I didn't know you had a daughter!

REUBEN

(Done with the conversation)

I do.

Reuben pulls up outside the pizza joint. Lou gets her box and opens the car door.

LOU

Well, thanks. See you later. Maybe
drinks another time.

EXT. PIZZA JOINT - MIDDAY

Reuben drives away.

CLOSEUP ON BUMPER STICKER

Lou looks over to the bistro but no sign of Gia. She heads into the pizza shop.

INT. PIZZA JOINT - EARLY AFTERNOON

Lou sits at a table with an empty plate and a notepad, plus her cardboard box. Maura and June, the older lesbians from the bistro in Ep 1, approach the table holding hands.

MAURA

Hello there.

(CONTINUED)

Lou stands and shakes their hands. It seems like the right thing to do. They're half grandmotherly half hipster.

LOU

Please, have a seat. Four soaps and one scarf.

JUNE

Gorgeous. Did you make the soaps yourself?

LOU

(Proudly)

I did. I would be delighted to hear any feedback you might have.

She pulls out her receipt pad and writes one for them, as Maura hands over an envelope.

And if there's any problem with the soaps, just send me an email and I'll do my best to fix it.

JUNE

So professional.

June tucks the products into her purse. The three women exit the shop together.

EXT. PIZZA JOINT - MIDDAY

Lou shakes hands with both women.

LONG DISTANCE PAPARAZZI/SPY SHOTS of Lou shaking hands

Back to MEDIUM SHOT of Lou on bench

LOU

Have a lovely day, and thanks for shopping Babygrass!

She sits down on the bench outside the pizza place, across from the bistro. She makes some calculations on a notepad. Triumph! She's broken even! She flips through the cash in the envelope and tucks it into her wallet.

A toddler toddles by and Lou smiles widely at her. Lou breathes deeply and happily.

INT. BISTRO - SAME TIME

Gia is holding back the Bistro's curtains. She's been watching Lou through the window.

O.S. DEWEY
I need you.

Gia lets the curtain fall and walks away.

END.