

THE WEDDING DATE

Written by

Shaneequa Cannon

Based on the novel by Zara Stoneley

STEAMY BATHROOM. SILHOUETTE OF A WOMAN SHOWERING. BAD SINGING.

INT. SAM JENKINS'S BATHROOM - DAY

The shower handle squeaks as the water is turned off. The shower door cracks open and a thicker yet feminine arm blindly searches for the towel on top of the toilet before yanking the towel through the door.

SAMANTHA JENKINS, 30, a pretty slightly chubby woman, steps out of the shower wearing a shower cap and the towel, which gapes open at the thighs.

SAM (V.O.)
Reasons I, Sam Jenkins, cannot go
to this wedding:

Sam stops in front of the fogged bathroom mirror then swipes at it with her hand. She stares at her reflection and pulls off the shower cap. Her hair falls just below her shoulders. The towel falls too. Sam bends down to grab it.

SAM (V.O.)
Number one: I'm too fat and just
don't have time to get down to a
look-okay-in-a-posh-summer-frock
weight.

Sam stands up and knots the towel tighter around her chest. She reaches for the toothbrush and toothpaste, which are next to a yellow wedding invitation. She brushes her teeth.

SAM (V.O.)
Number two: Lemon is so not my
colour, which, apparently is the
theme of this wedding.

Sam rinses the toothbrush as she gargles then spits. She walks into her bedroom.

INT. SAM JENKINS'S BEDROOM - DAY

Sam's bedroom is a mess. The bed is ruffled. There are bags filled with emptied ice cream cartons, plastic spoons, and large chip bags. Sam walks by the mess, over to her dresser, and pulls out panties. She puts them on. Then she takes out a large t-shirt and pulls it over her head. She lets the towel fall to the floor. Then Sam climbs back in bed.

SAM (V.O.)
 Number three: I have far too much
 work to do.

Sam looks around her room.

SAM (V.O.)
 And house-cleaning.

Sam looks at the wilted plant on her bedroom window sill.

SAM (V.O.)
 And gardening.

Then Sam pulls the covers over her head and turns on her
 side.

SAM (V.O.)
 Number four. I don't have a date.

Tears crowd her eyes then fall. Sam reaches behind her and
 grabs a fresh tissue out of the box on the night stand then
 blots at the tears.

SAM (V.O.)
 Number five: The last man I dated
 ripped my heart out, stamped on it,
 and is going to be the best man.

SUPER: FIVE MONTHS, THREE DAYS, 5 HOURS, & 37 MINUTES AGO
 (give or take the odd minute)

EXT. A PUB - NIGHT

Sam and JESSICA MCDONALD, 30, a brunette wearing a dress
 showing off her curves-in-the-right-places body, exit the pub
 with their arms linked and Jess's head on Sam's shoulder.
 Once they reach the bottom of the steps, Jess lifts her head
 and unlinks her arm from Sam's, then turns to face Sam.

JESS
 I think Dan's going to pop the
 question tonight.

SAM
 Really? What makes you think that?

JESS
 We're going on holiday with his
 parents and mine.

SAM
 Oh that's big.

JESS

Liam's going too. Oh, Sam! What if he asks you to go too? Then we could end up with a double wedding!

Sam shakes her head.

SAM

Liam hates surprises. You know he's too routine for "popping the question". Watch. He's going to pull me close then give me a kiss. We'll snog all the way home, get a little touchy feely on the stairs, shag for five minutes, he'll collapse with a groan, and I'll pull out the present you gave me.

Sam makes an electric noise.

JESS

How ghastly! He and Dan may be brothers but they couldn't be more different. Thank goodness! I found my perfect match. You shouldn't settle for less than that. But let me know when you need more batteries.

Sam and Jess laugh.

The pub door opens again. LIAM FELLOWS, 30, wearing a stuffy button-up shirt and khaki pants, looking very much the accountant, and DAN FELLOWS, 33, looking very much so the opposite of his brother, sporting a slightly-spiked hairdo, a leather jacket, and denim exit the building.

Dan walks up to Jess and puts his arm around her waist.

DAN

Ready?

Jess nods.

JESS

See you soon, Sam. Liam.

Jess makes an electric noise. Sam and Jess share a laugh. Jess and Dan turn to walk away.

Sam and Liam wave goodbye to the couple. Once Jess and Dan are gone, Liam pulls Sam close. Sam closes her eyes and puckers her lips. Liam doesn't move.

Sam opens one eye. Liam just looks at her. Sam opens the other eye.

LIAM
Samantha, you're a lovely girl...

Sam straightens up and stares at Liam.

LIAM (CONT'D)
But this has started to feel like a habit.

Sam visibly relaxes and smiles.

SAM
Maybe we should walk back a different way? Across the park?

Liam's smiles in a way that still looks sad.

LIAM
I don't mean the route. I mean our relationship. It's not really going anywhere, is it?

Sam nods.

SAM
We could have a mini-break, go to Spain, or Paris? Ooh la la.

Sam does a little wriggle of her body.

SAM (CONT'D)
Spice things up?

Liam looks annoyed.

LIAM
I didn't mean go anywhere as in travel.

Liam exhales.

LIAM (CONT'D)
There's no easy way to say this, and you know I like to be straight.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Liam and Sam sit across from each other at a table in the middle of a swanky restaurant. A WAITRESS stands over the table, smiling.

WAITRESS
And how is everything?

Liam pushes his plate towards the waitress.

LIAM
This meat is on the tough side.

INT. JENKINS' HOME - DAY.

Sam's mother, RUTH JENKINS, late 50s, stands in front of a full-length mirror in the hall, admiring herself. Sam and Liam stand at the doorway as DAVID JENKINS, late 50s, lets them into the house.

RUTH
Oh, Samantha, your father won't tell me what he thinks about my new trousers. Does my bum look a bit large for these?

Sam looks at her father who shakes his head. Liam steps inside and walks towards Ruth.

LIAM
Why, yes, it does look a bit large but at your age it doesn't matter.

Ruth laughs then darts into her bedroom.

EXT. PUB - NIGHT

Liam continues to look at Sam. He clears his throat.

LIAM
I think we've reached the end of the road.

SAM
But we're only--

LIAM
Samantha, I've met somebody else.

Liam pales and looks astonished. Sam's mouth hangs open as she stares at him, confusion clear on her face.

LIAM (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. I do wish you well.

Liam holds out his hand. Sam looks down at it.

LIAM (CONT'D)
Aren't you going to answer it?

SAM
What?

LIAM
Answer your phone!

INT. SAM JENKINS'S BEDROOM - DAY

Sam's eyes pop open. She throws the covers off her face then turns towards the night stand. She grabs her phone and looks at it as the phone rings. Jess's name is on the screen.

SAM (V.O.)
The reason I have to go to this
wedding: Jess is my best friend.

Sam hops out of bed.

SAM
Shit. I'm going to be late for
work.

Sam presses the button on the phone as she goes to her closet.

SAM (CONT'D)
Jess!

Jess's excited voice blares through the phone. Sam pulls it away from her ear as she moves through the clothes in closet.

JESS (O.S.)
Did you get the invite? Isn't it
amazing?!?

Sam draws the phone back to her ear.

SAM
Yes. Fantastic news. I'm so pleased
for you! You and Dan make the
perfect couple!

A shriek through the phone makes Sam pull the phone away again.

JESS (O.S.)
I can't wait to see you! Just so
you know-- I mean it won't bother
you since you have a new man--

Sam bites her lip. She pulls out a dress and takes it off its hanger.

JESS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Liam's new girlfriend will be with
him. She's preggers. Huge!

Sam stops then moves backwards towards the bed. She plops down.

JESS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Liam's a prat. I wouldn't have
invited him but he is Dan's
brother.

SAM
I know.

Another shriek comes through the phone.

JESS (O.S.)
I can't wait to meet your new man!

SAM
(whispers)
Me neither.

JESS (O.S.)
What?

SAM
I said I can't wait for you to meet
him either. Sorry but I got to
rush. I'm late for work. Will call
you later for a proper chat.

Sam hits the button, not waiting for a reply. She tosses the phone on the bed.

SAM (CONT'D)
Reason number six why I can't go to
this wedding: My ex has impregnated
somebody else. Hugely.