

MICHAELA FALLS IN LOVE

By Arlo Thompson

INT. A WINE BAR - DAY

LIZ and MICHAELA, in summer casual wear, sit at a sun drenched table sipping wine.

LIZ
You seem different.

MICHAELA
Europe changed me. I fell in love.

The WAITER arrives to fill some water glasses, catches the end of Michaela's statement and gives her a "girl, please" look.

LIZ
Oh that's great!

MICHAELA
(reminiscing)
Yeah, we met in a cafe in Holland,
the tulips in bloom--

LIZ
So romantic.

MICHAELA
At first I thought: He is so sharp,
maybe a little too sharp.

LIZ
You want someone witty.

MICHAELA
Not exactly witty but there was a
gentle sweetness. I, I didn't know
you could fall in love with a
cheese.

LIZ
What? Cheese? You fell in love with
a cheese?

MICHAELA
Yeah, I did.

LIZ
That's not a thing.

MICHAELA

It is. He was a Graskaas, very silky and he had this aroma of fresh cut hay.

LIZ

How many men are in Europe and you hooked up with a cheese? It's just food Michaela.

MICHAELA

No, it's not. This cheese is made from the cows when they're first released into the pasture in the spring. The first. Cheese. Liz.

LIZ

It just doesn't make any sense.

MICHAELA

Love never does. In Paris, I met a Camembert. I bought a bottle of wine, grabbed a blanket and we spent the evening under the stars next to a waterfall in the Bois de Boulogne. So lovely.

LIZ

That sounds romantic but really, you were still alone.

MICHAELA

Was I?

The Waiter arrives to refill their wine. As he pours:

MICHAELA (cont'd)

Another time I had one in my mouth and it was creamy but surprisingly salty. But it's there you know, so how could I not swallow?

The waiter clearly thinks he's overheard something gross. Makes a face and backs away.

LIZ

What, a cheddar?

MICHAELA

Cheddar, ha! No. A Brillat Savarin and it might just be my favorite.

Beat.

MICHAELA (cont'd)
 You know, you're lucky if you find
 one true love in this life and now
 I've had several.

LIZ
 But you're back here now. Those
 loves are gone, in Europe and
 also... you ate them.

MICHAELA
 I know. I was worried about that so
 I smuggled some home.

LIZ
 Through customs? You know you can
 just declare those.

MICHAELA
 But why chance it?

Beat.

MICHAELA (cont'd)
 (becoming emotional)
 I was sweaty and anxious the whole
 flight. I missed them. Their scent,
 their taste. That comfort you get
 next to someone you know you're
 meant to be with. The next day I
 thought I'd go to Central Park and
 recreate that magical date but when
 I woke up, I couldn't wait. I housed
 them all before I got out of bed.

LIZ
 Sweetie, we need to find you a man.

MICHAELA
 I'd happily take those cheeses over
 any man in my future.

The waiter arrives, delivering a cheese plate. He looks at
 Michaela as he sets down the plate.

MICHAELA (cont'd)
 What? You've never lost someone you
 cared about? All your relationships
 worked out just fine, did they?

The waiter stammers a bit then walks away very quickly.

LIZ

Whoa, slow down there lady. I understand things seems different abroad but try these. This place really has a lovely selection.

MICHAELA

I... I just don't know.

LIZ

Go on.

Michaela takes a small piece of cheese. She closes her eyes and gently places it in her mouth. She chews just a little then begins sobbing openly.

MICHAELA

(through tears)

I'll never love again.

BLACK OUT.