

PUX

by

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Based on "A Midsummer Night's Dream"  
By William Shakespeare

Rebecca thinks she has to watch the guy she loves, Xander, marry her best friend, Chloe. That is, until Chloe's true love returns to sweep her off to elope in Las Vegas! Rebecca and Xander give chase and when a mischievous uncle, his cirque-themed hotel Players, and a magical new experiential elixir "PUX" collide, everything the "love square" thought they knew about themselves and each other is turned upside down.

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OVER BLACK:

SOUNDS OF A WOMAN RETCHING, SPITTING.

REBECCA

Gah. God.

TOILET FLUSHES. QUICK TOOTHBRUSHING. WATER RUNNING.  
SPITTING.

REBECCA (V.O.)

You're okay. It's gonna be fine.  
Smile. No, a real smile. Take a  
deep breath.

(DEEP INHALE)

Good. You can do this. You're  
super smart. You've done this  
before. Okay, you've seen this  
done before. You can handle  
challenges! You are a good leader!  
Just focus. One thing at a time.  
Don't think about how this is your  
first gig. Think about it as the  
first gig on your way to an amazing  
career of stellar gigs!

COUGH. SPIT.

FADE IN:

INT. SMALL CLIFF-SIDE WEDDING VENUE - BATHROOM - DAY

REBECCA (tall, slim, early 20's), is alone in the bathroom.  
She's giving herself a pep talk in the mirror and white-  
knuckling her toothbrush.

REBECCA

(to her reflection)

They wouldn't have hired you if  
they didn't trust you. Right?  
You're gonna be great! Now, get  
out there and do an amazing job!

She slaps on some lipstick. Gives herself a huge smile.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Just don't fuck it up.

She blots sweat from her brow, tucks her toothbrush into her  
pocket, adjusts her jacket, picks up her clipboard, puts on  
her game face and exits.

INT./EXT. SMALL CLIFF-SIDE WEDDING VENUE - DAY

Rebecca steps into the quaint, airy venue. A CATERING CREW scampers around the venue including VICTORIA (40's), a veteran bartender who is waiting with a plastic cup.

VICTORIA

Better?

(hands her the cup)

Soda, bitters, and lime. To settle your stomach.

REBECCA

(perky!)

Yes! I'm great! Thanks!

Rebecca, the wedding planner, chugs the water, burps politely, and jumps in to get the last details of the reception finished and perfect.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

Where are the centerpieces?!

VICTORIA

No sign of them.

REBECCA

Damn it.

(checks the time)

We're okay. It's okay.

Behind all the bustle, through the windows, the WEDDING CEREMONY takes place on the lawn.

Rebecca heads to the back door.

EXT. SMALL CLIFF-SIDE WEDDING VENUE - SERVICE ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca stares down the empty driveway. Finally the florist's van pulls up. The DRIVER jumps out.

FLORIST DRIVER

Rebecca! We're so sorry! Our other van broke down a--

REBECCA

It doesn't matter! Just get those flowers in here.

INT. SMALL CLIFF-SIDE WEDDING VENUE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca turns on her heel. She's met by a line of STAFF needing direction.

CATERER  
(bordering on panic)  
We're missing linens.

CATER-WAITER 1  
We're running low on crystals for  
the center pieces.

VICTORIA  
We're not gonna have enough ice.

CATER-WAITER 2  
We need another table for the place  
cards.

CATERER  
And then more linens for that!

Rebecca takes a deep breath.

REBECCA  
(points)  
Did you check that closet?  
Sometimes the linen company shoves  
things in there.

She refers to her clipboard and directs her fixes to each eager, desperate face.

REBECCA (CONT'D)  
(more pointing)  
Redistribute crystals to tables 1,  
2, 12 and 13. Those are the money  
tables. Check the storage area  
downstairs, they'll probably have  
another table. There's an ice  
maker down there, too. And usually  
there are emergency black linens in  
the back office. Use them on the  
food table, use the food table  
linens on the place card table.

Flowers charge in, overwhelming the harried FLORIST carrying them, and behind them, the MUSICIANS.

MUSICIAN  
Hey, sorry. We, um, got lost.

REBECCA  
(re: bloodshot eyes)  
Are you high?

MUSICIAN  
(totally high)  
What? No! Of course not, jeez!  
That'd be so unprofessional.

REBECCA  
Set up over there. You've got  
twenty minutes until cocktail hour.  
(yells to anyone)  
Any free hands please help bring in  
the center pieces!

CATERER (O.S.)  
Found the linens!

REBECCA  
(under her breath, flat)  
Oh, thank God. We're saved.

Rebecca pats her brow and heads out the back.

INT. SMALL CLIFF-SIDE WEDDING VENUE - DAY

The reception is in full swing. Rebecca refers to some beautiful and elaborate sketches she's done for the event and compares them to real life. While the decorations are sparse and, if you look too closely, cheap, the effect is magical and elegant.

She's done so much with so little.

The WEDDING GUESTS are happy and enjoying themselves. Rebecca checks her watch and gives a couple more orders.

ANGLE ON:

She walks to the bar and lays down her sketches.

Victoria hands Rebecca what looks like a cup of water.

REBECCA  
Thanks.

She takes a big gulp and chokes.

REBECCA (CONT'D)  
(coughs)  
That's gin! Lime please.

Victoria squeezes a lime into Rebecca's drink.

VICTORIA  
(meaning it)  
Nice job today.

REBECCA  
(also meaning it)  
Thanks.

VICTORIA  
First big gig. Check. Next: a  
Kardashian wedding!

REBECCA  
The Holy Grail! From your lips...

Victoria picks up her own drink and they click cups. Rebecca finishes the drink and hands the cup back to Victoria who pours another one and hands it back to her.

VICTORIA  
Bride. 10 o'clock. Coming in hot.

Rebecca takes another swig and tucks the drink behind the bar. She grabs a strawberry off the plate of fruit on the bar, chucks it in her mouth and chews quickly.

Victoria fills the flutes set out on the bar with champagne.

REBECCA  
(bares her teeth)  
Seeds?

VICTORIA  
You're good.

Rebecca spins. THE BRIDE, a bubbly, mid 20's, meringue-wedding-dress of a young woman, veil fluttering behind her, color adorably high with happiness and, frankly, champagne, bounces up to the bar waving her empty flute.

GUSHING BRIDE  
Oh. My. God, Rebecca!

She gives Rebecca a big sloppy hug which Rebecca readily accepts.

GUSHING BRIDE (CONT'D)  
It's all so amazing. You did an  
amazing job. Everyone is saying  
how it looks amazing. I can't  
believe how you put this whole  
thing together all by yourself.  
(MORE)

GUSHING BRIDE (CONT'D)

I was worried but it's beyond my expectations! So amazing! I'm so happy!! It sounds so corny but this really is the most amazing day of my life!

REBECCA

(sincerely)

I'm really happy for you. I'm so glad you're enjoying yourself.

GUSHING BRIDE

Mucho.

Victoria reaches over the bar and tops off her flute. The Bride mouths a "thank you" and spins off.

Her GROOM, mid-20's and replete in a mourning suit, is nearby and sweeps the bride into his arms and around the dance floor. Rebecca and Victoria watch. Rebecca sighs, frowns and retrieves her drink. They toast each other.

REBECCA/VICTORIA

Amazing.

They click drink cups and take deeps sips. As they watch the revelers, Rebecca's expression changes, softens. Victoria turns to see what she's looking at.

In comes CHLOE (early 20's, petite and curvy, princess); LEO (Leonard, early 20's, strikingly handsome, defensive-new-money entitlement) Chloe's fiancé; and TREY GREEN (60's, yachty-retiree type) Chloe's father. Leo looks not unlike a younger version of Trey, his soon to be father-in-law.

VICTORIA

(to Rebecca)

Didn't you used to date that guy?

Rebecca swirls her drink.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. REBECCA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Rebecca and Leo make love in the morning light. His mouth is on her neck, his hand on her naked waist. He grins and says something to her. Rebecca laughs.

Leo brushes the hair out of her eyes and kisses her tenderly. Birds flutter as a warm breeze blows through the jacaranda tree out the window.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. SMALL CLIFF-SIDE WEDDING VENUE - DAY - SAME

REBECCA

Yup.

VICTORIA

Isn't that your best friend with him?

REBECCA

Yup.

VICTORIA

And you're planning their wedding.

REBECCA

Yup.

VICTORIA

Ouch. Ain't love a bitch.

REBECCA

(resigned)

Sometimes.

Chloe waves. Rebecca finishes her drink, hands it to Victoria, and smooths her messy hair as they head over.

TREY

Rebecca, my other daughter. Thank you for inviting us to preview your work! This looks wonderful. You did this all yourself? You look tired.

REBECCA

Thank you, Papa Trey. And, thank you, Papa Trey?

TREY

Oh, sweetie. You know what I mean. I worry. You're thin. Are you eating?

REBECCA

I'm *fine*, Papa Trey!

Trey kisses Rebecca and Rebecca and Chloe exchange a warm hug. Chloe looks stressed.

CHLOE

Hey, girlie. Thanks for having us.  
(whispers in her ear)  
I have to talk to you!!

REBECCA

What?!

CHLOE

Shh!

Leo, always considerate, reaches for flutes.

LEO

(to Victoria)  
May I?

VICTORIA

Of course!

Leo discretely slides Victoria some bills and hands Trey a flute.

REBECCA

(whispers to Chloe)  
Are you okay?

Chloe shakes her head quickly and turns as Leo crosses with another flute. She takes the flute from Leo.

LEO

Here, babe.

Rebecca turns to Leo and they exchange one of those weird "we used to have sex now I'm engaged to your best friend" hugs. Rebecca's face turns naturally into Leo's neck.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

EXT. CLIFF OVERLOOKING THE OCEAN - NIGHT

Rebecca and Leo watch the waves. Chilly, Rebecca turns and presses her face into Leo's neck and breathes deeply. Leo wraps his jacket around her and holds her tightly. He kisses the top of her head sweetly.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. SMALL CLIFF-SIDE WEDDING VENUE - DAY - SAME

Rebecca and Leo both flinch and step back from each other. Rebecca's gaze lingers on Leo's face as he turns away.

REBECCA

Um, nice to see you, Leo, as always. How's your cat?

LEO

He -- He's fine, thanks. This looks great, Beck. Of course.  
(sees the sketches)  
Are these yours? Excellent.

REBECCA

No, they suck. Don't look. They're not even close to yours, but --

LEO

No, these are great. My work's too cold to do something like this.

REBECCA

Hardly! What have you been working on?

LEO

Oh. Nothing. I don't paint anymore. I'm too busy at the firm.

REBECCA

What? That's a shame.  
(are they having a moment?)  
I -- anyway, thanks. I'm pretty proud of this.

LEO

(pained smile)  
You should be!

Chloe clears her throat, returning focus to her. Leo coughs and shifts gears.

LEO (CONT'D)

It looks expensive. Chloe, we'll do it like this, definitely. But much larger. Grander. Can you do larger Rebecca?

REBECCA

(forced)

Of course I can do that. Haha!  
This was clearly no problem. Did  
it in my sleep. Not that I'm not  
grateful. So, bigger is, you know,  
better! More is more! Amirite?  
America! Heh.

CHLOE

Rebecca --

REBECCA

(stammering)

And, Oh! By the way! I can't  
believe I forgot! That reminds me!  
Duh! Congratulations on the  
engagement! And I'm so excited to  
be planning your wedding! I am. I  
really appreciate the opportunity.

Chloe throws Rebecca a pensive look. Rebecca returns with a  
look like, "What!?"

TREY

Of course, sweetheart. You're  
family and we'll support you  
however we can.

REBECCA

Thank you, Papa Trey. Let me  
introduce you to the bride and  
groom and show you the cake! It's  
a castle!

TREY

Ooo! I love cake! I love castles!

They all turn to go. Chloe holds Rebecca back.

CHLOE

(hisses)

Xander is back!

REBECCA

Shut up!

(she looks at Leo)

What are you going to do?

TREY

(hollers back)

It's gorgeous, Becca! I'm writing  
you a check right now!