

Candy Hearts and Lemonade

By Caitlin Coey

Sound: VALLIS ALPS: fade in, LOUD.

Lights: fade Up

The present, 9 pm, OLIVIA sits on a rug on the floor of her apartment: DSL. A collage board, magazines, torn out pictures, a jar of rubber cement, and floor pillows surround her. Along with a plate of Saltines, a mug, a sharpie, nail polish, and cellphone. SR is a chair and side table. BACKSTAGE RIGHT: a packet of Saltines.

LILA Enters.

Sound: lower.

OLIVIA

(turning the music down and barely looking up) Hey.

LILA

Hi.

OLIVIA

You're home early.

LILA

They're cutting back our O.T.

OLIVIA

Mmm

LILA

You won't fucking believe my day. Rita Evans changed her mind about the filling *again*, and I was already fucking in the middle of frosting it. They do not pay me enough for this shit.

OLIVIA

That sucks.

LILA

You got mail. *(she hands OLIVIA her mail)*

OLIVIA

(referencing the table) Just put it over there, thanks.

LILA does.

OLIVIA eats a cracker. LILA can't sit still. She takes off her coat.

LILA

He tried to kiss me.

OLIVIA

(not registering) What?

(overlapping)

LILA

A man. On the street. He tried to kiss me.

Sound: bump out.

OLIVIA

(turning the music off) Are you okay? What happened?

LILA

(confiding) I saw it before he did it--

OLIVIA

You saw it?

LILA

In him. I saw that he wanted, that he was going to try to [kiss me] You know, when you can read somebody's body language, the way they cock their head or look at you a certain way...like you can see it happens before it happens? Like when you know who's on the other end of the phone before you look at the screen.

OLIVIA

Okay...

LILA

What are you doing?

OLIVIA

My room's kinda bare I thought I'd put something up.

LILA

(not listening) He was eating this donut and it was so--

OLIVIA

A donut?

LILA

--It was...the frosting was maybe chocolate but it's dark outside, it had this kind of...ruffle? Like maybe an old fashioned or...

OLIVIA

Lila, get to the part where he kissed you.

LILA

Sorry, I was almost here and he was standing off to the side, kinda out of the light, but he was looking right at me...he asked me a question, but I couldn't hear him so I went closer--

OLIVIA

That's exactly what you're not supposed to do.

LILA

I know, but it was automatic someone asks you a question, you answer...by the time I understood...he was already standing right up next to me. right in my face.

OLIVIA

And that's when he tried to kiss you?

LILA

Well, I could see his tongue going down my throat.

OLIVIA

(concern) But what did he actually *do*?

LILA

He was so tall, taller than me and he was taking these bites out of this donut but not breaking eye contact with me, like he was showing me what he was gonna do to me. It was so *gross* and creepy.

OLIVIA

Oh, I thought, well, he didn't actually kiss you then. Gees. You scared me. (*her phone beeps, she looks at the headline*) Ah, we're running out of alligators.

LILA

(blindsided) What?

OLIVIA

(scanning) I guess the temperature of the Earth determines the sex of the alligator. Earth's too warm, so no little girl alligators which means downturn in population.

LILA

(picking up a Ms. Magazine off the coffee table and throwing it at her) They're running out of girls in India.

OLIVIA

Running out?

LILA

They're being aborted. Because girls aren't valuable. (*she starts cleaning out her purse, throwing away old receipts, etc*)

OLIVIA

(*not biting*) Oh.(*she receives a text, it's funny*) Oh my god!

LILA

What?

OLIVIA

Oh, just Roxy, she (*it's SO funny!*) they put security cameras in the break room and she did a whole *America's Next Top Model* thing in front of them, she just sent me the video. Love her!

LILA

Why would they need to put them in the break room?

OLIVIA

They put them on the floor to keep people from stealing and I guess they just thought they'd cover all their bases. Fuck, I hope she doesn't get into trouble. There probably isn't any sound, right?

LILA

No. Don't you feel like they're *watching* you?

OLIVIA

I think that's the point.

LILA

You know what I mean.

OLIVIA

If it keeps people from stealing, then I'm fine with it. I'm not staying there forever anyway. Chocolate Heaven shall one day be a distant memory. Ah, the future.

LILA

Yeah...So you don't feel like they're invading your privacy?

OLIVIA

Um, seen any Google ads for music by 90s pop singing sensation Mandy Moore recently?

LILA

You used my computer?

OLIVIA

My computer died I couldn't find my charger and you never change your password. I think you should go with *The Best of Mandy Moore*, the recent one.

LILA

She put out albums in the 2000s also...

OLIVIA

Hey listen to whatever you want, no shame, but just so you know, *I want you to lock me in your heart*, Lila. Lock me. In. your. Heart. Somebody's always watching you.

LILA

And we shouldn't expect anything different.

OLIVIA

(*with a smile*) Change your password.

LILA

I'll remember that.

OLIVIA

If someone wanted to torture me to get to you, it would be so easy. I know everything!

LILA

And *that's* the problem, not that you're a pussy?

OLIVIA

Ouch. When He's president—

LILA

Thanks for that.

OLIVIA

Dude, chill, I just want to Make America Great Again. Is that so wrong? Torture will be everywhere. There will be all the torture in all the places. Don't I have the best words?

LILA

(*NOT at ALL*) Haha. So funny.

OLIVIA

You're laughing!

LILA

This is the sound I make when I'm dying slowly inside.

OLIVIA

(*ribbing her*) The ties are my favorite, longest ties I've ever seen.

LILA

When He's president—

OLIVIA

Ooh!

LILA

IF! IF he becomes President the fact that your employers are spying on you in the place where you eat lunch *on your own time* won't be so funny.

OLIVIA

What's up your butt? It's just footage, it's not live.

LILA

(sarcasm) And the loss of Indian women isn't the same as the loss of female alligators.

OLIVIA

It's not.

LILA

A little bit it is.

OLIVIA

Isn't that like saying your dog is your child?

LILA

I'm not saying they're comparable in terms of worth! In both scenarios the female-bodied are being eradicated, that's all I'm saying. It's *sex-selective* abortion....girls are a burden. When they get married, there's a dowry, it's expensive so...some clinics will give a package deal. We'll test the sex of the fetus and if it's girl, you can get an immediate abortion.

OLIVIA

Why do you read about this stuff?

LILA

I want to know what's going on in the world.

OLIVIA

So do I, but I also want to sleep at night.

LILA

I sleep.

OLIVIA

Well, I wouldn't.

LILA

Maybe sleep isn't everything.

OLIVIA

I care, I'm following the election.

LILA

Sure, you're more interested in that stupid video Roxy sent you—

OLIVIA

I'm relaxing!

LILA

Yeah, well, I tell you a random, creepy, dude tries to kiss me on the street—

OLIVIA

Come on, Lila! He didn't even *do* anything!

LILA

He asked me if I was scared. He got right up close to my face and then he leaned down and said: *are you scared?* And he smiled because he knew that I was. Don't tell me that's not *doing* anything.

OLIVIA

(trying to calm her down) It's not a big deal.

LILA

It's a big deal to me, it was predatory!

OLIVIA

Okay, I'm sorry.

LILA

You're not sorry, you just want me to go away.

OLIVIA

When have I *ever* said that?

LILA

You don't have to say it.

OLIVIA

I wasn't expecting you to be home, that's all.

LILA

Sorry I'm bothering you.

OLIVIA

Don't be like that, come on.

LILA

(*reaching for one of the cut out pictures*) Are you using this?

OLIVIA

Not right now...

LILA

Good. (*She grabs a pen and starts covering it in ink*)

OLIVIA

What are you doing?

LILA

I'm pissed off.

OLIVIA

(*grabbing her hand*) Hey, I'm just saying the world doesn't have to be a bad place, that's all.

LILA

Did you know we passed the two degree mark? Climate change used to be this thing that you didn't have to see if you didn't want to, now we're having fucking 82 degree weather in April. We're *in* the future.

OLIVIA

Well, maybe creepy dude will melt.

LILA

Ugh, what are you doing?!

OLIVIA

You're the one who came in with the fucking dark cloud over your head.

LILA

Maybe if you could just try to *understand* a little bit--

OLIVIA

I'm just trying to enjoy my evening and I'd rather not tally up all the ways the world is coming to an end.

LILA

It might be...

OLIVIA

Well then, at least I'll have enjoyed my last days on Earth instead of being afraid all the time.

LILA

Just because something isn't scary to you, doesn't mean it isn't scary to other people! (*beat*) I got home earlier, I ran here, but I walked around outside the building for a minute because I didn't want you to ask me why I was out of breath. Tonight, with that guy, I ran away from him. (*quoting OLIVIA*) The exact thing you're not supposed to do. He won and I lost and that feels like shit. So sorry. It's not all candy hearts and lemonade.

OLIVIA

Thank you for that edification.

Stalemate.

LILA

I have to be able to talk about the things in the world that scare me.

OLIVIA

Okay, but they're not going to stop losing girls in India just because you know about it. It doesn't change anything. You're just making yourself miserable by looking at all this stuff all the time. I mean, Jesus, you can find something wrong with anything if you look hard enough.

LILA

Well, I'd rather know than not. Not looking feels like defeat, and I don't know how to live in the world like that, just skating along over the top of everything so it stays blurry.

OLIVIA

Well, I need the blur once in a while. I need the candy hearts and lemonade. You think I'm not terrified too?! It feels like every other day there's some school shooting somewhere. I understand this isn't Utopia, but if I kept my finger on every single bad thing I wouldn't be able to function.

Beat.

LILA

So, what, look but don't look?

OLIVIA

Maybe. Keep moving.

LILA

Meanwhile the world goes on. Around and around and around.

OLIVIA

Exactly. I'm going to bed, mind if clean this up tomorrow?

Nope. LILA

K. *(beat)* I'm sorry about the guy. OLIVA

Thanks. I'll see you tomorrow. LILA

Yeah. *(heading off stage)* Don't forget to lock the door. OLIVIA

Yep. LILA

*LILA is on stage for a moment alone,
drawing over the picture.*

LIGHTS: fade out.

(IF EXIT MUSIC NEEDED: Vallis Alps again...)

END OF PLAY.