

THE LOVE ZOOM ROOM

By Mark Frank

Characters

Ben

Julie

Woman

THE LOVE ZOOM ROOM

SCENE

A man, Ben, enters a Zoom meeting on his computer. A woman, Julie, joins him.

JULIE

Hell-o...

BEN

Well...hell-o...

JULIE

Happy anniversary. I missed you!

BEN

Happy anniversary. I missed you!

JULIE

I love you, Schmoopie!

(Kissing his computer screen.)

BEN

I love you more, Schmoopie!!

(Kissing her computer screen.)

JULIE

I love you more!

BEN

I love you infinity and beyond!

JULIE

(Sexy)

You ready?

BEN

(Sexy)

No, the question is are you ready?

JULIE

Yes!

BEN

Yes!

(They put a big glob of hand sanitizer in
their hands sexually and rub them together.)

BEN

You like that?

JULIE

Yes! You sexy beast!

BEN

Here take some more!

JULIE

More! More!!

BEN

Masks on?

JULIE

Masks on!

(They slowly and sexually put their
masks on sensually.)

BEN

I love you!

JULIE

I love you!

BEN

Now...face guards!!

JULIE

Really face guards?!

BEN

Yes! Face Guards!

(They put them on sensually.)

JULIE

Sexy Beast!

BEN

You sexy animal!

(They fog up the face guards with their
masked on with heavy breathing.)

BEN

Say his name! Say his name!

JULIE

Say his name!

BEN

Fauci!

JULIE

Fauci!

BEN

Doctor Fauci!

JULIE

Doctor...Fauci...Fauci...Yes!!

(They start removing their clothing as she moans still saying, "Fauci". A strange looking woman enters the Zoom meeting. Her hair is pulled back, she has big glasses. She wears a military gas mask. Something is off with her.)

WOMAN

Hi!

BEN

How did you get in this Zoom room meeting?

WOMAN

What?!

BEN

How-did-you-get-into-this-Zoom-room-meeting?

WOMAN

What?!

BEN

Take your mask off!

WOMAN

What?!

BEN

Take-your-mask-off!

(The woman takes off her mask.)

WOMAN

(Yelling)

Sorry, I couldn't hear you with my giant mask on.

(She laughs very peculiarly and
Obnoxiously. The man and woman
take their face masks and mask off.)

BEN

We were kind of having a...moment...

WOMAN

Roger that! Okay!

BEN

Why are you shouting?

JULIE

How did you get into this room-How did you get this Zoom ID?

WOMAN

I just started punching random ID numbers on ZOOM and walah, here I am!

JULIE

Well, you can leave now-this is a private meeting between us.

WOMAN

(Yelling)

One time I had...

BEN

No need to yell....so much yelling with her...

WOMAN

(Rambling)

One time I had this private meeting with this man on the corner of tenth and Mitchell, and he was selling tamales from his station wagon; and he said in a very peculiar voice, "Do you want some tamales?" And I said, "I don't know, I never had tamales before," and then he said, "try, try my

tamales” and I said, “I’m not sure if I would like them” and he shoved one in my face trying to force feed me this tamale saying, “try, try to taste it” and I took a bite and...

(She continues to ramble inaudible.)

JULIE

Boot her from the room please. NOW!

BEN

(Pushing on computer keys.)

I’m trying-It won’t let me remove her....’

WOMAN

(Still rambling)

So, I ate my twelfth tamale, and I couldn’t stop eating them because they were so warm from the sun, and he said they have been sitting in his station wagon for six days, and I was his first customer, so I kept eating them...

(Continues to ramble.)

JULIE

Get rid of her! We only have a limited time on here.

BEN

I am trying to boot her from the room! I told you to but, Zoom Pro! I hate trying to have a social distance romantic anniversary during a pandemic!

WOMAN

Then he says I owe him twenty dollars for the tamales, and I said to him I don’t got twenty dollars for the tamales and then he says that’s too bad, and he said since I couldn’t pay, I had to stay in the back of his station wagon and roll new tamales for him to sell. I told him nobody’s going to buy tamales during a pandemic-Geeez!

(She laughs in a high-pitched geeky laugh.)

Hey Doo!

(She starts talking in a Southern accent like Loretta Lynn in the movie, *A Coal Miner’s Daughter*.)

BEN

What?

JULIE

Who is Doo?

WOMAN

Don't you take my babies Doo, they're in the backseat and don't you touch them.

BEN

Listen, we really need you to leave our Zoom meeting. We haven't seen each other in a long time.

JULIE

We would like to be alone

WOMAN

Doo, don't talk to me like that! Don't you love me?

BEN

I am not Doo!

JULIE

And you lady, are not Loretta Lynn, and this is not *A Coal Miner's Daughter*!

WOMAN

I'm warning you Mr. Doolittle, I'd better not catch you with trash like that again.

BEN

I'm not Doo or Doolittle!

WOMAN

You two quit fighting and listen to me sing.

(The woman sings a horrible rendition
of "A Coal Miner's Daughter".)

Well, I was borned a coal miner's daughter
In a cabin, on a hill in Butcher Holler...

JULIE

Please stop her. She's frickin crazy!

BEN

I can't. She's...nuts!

WOMAN

We were poor, but we had love
That's the one thing that daddy made sure of
He shoveled coal to make a poor man's dollar.

BEN

Lady, you have to stop, and please leave our meeting.

WOMAN

My daddy worked all night in the Van Lear coal mines
All day long in the field a hoin' corn
Mommy rocked the babies at night
And read the Bible by the coal oil light
And ever' thing would start all over come break of morn

JULIE

Please, for the love of all that's normal, please leave!!

WOMAN

Daddy loved and raised eight kids on a miner's pay
Mommy scrubbed our clothes on a washboard ever' day
Why I've seen her fingers bleed
To complain, there was no need
She'd smile in mommy's understanding way...

BEN/JULIE

Please leave!

WOMAN

Doo, that is no way to talk to your wife especially with me taking care of all these babies.

JULIE

Look, I don't know who you are, but we want to be alone. We have been in isolation and quarantine for too long and I want a private moment with my wife, on Zoom. Now please leave.

WOMAN

You got to quarantine so you don't get sick that's true. You see I use Purell-lots of it and I put it on at least ten times a day

(The woman has a huge bottle of Purell and puts in all over her face, arms, and hands. She starts to eat the Purell.)

You have to be careful.

BEN

Listen, I don't know who you are, but we wanted to spend time together on Zoom. We got quarantined, and this is our anniversary today. We can't be together so can we please just have the room, and can you please leave?

WOMAN

It's your anniversary? Why didn't you say so?

(Singing and yelling)

Anniversary! Ann...iversary! Anniversary! Anniversary!

(She starts to dance while singing her anniversary song as they talk on top of her.)

JULIE

Let's just leave the meeting. I'll call you. We can Facetime.

BEN

It won't be the same.

JULIE

I know, but hey, I love you!

BEN

I love you! Happy Anniversary...sort of!

WOMAN

I love you both!

(Ben and Julie leave the Zoom meeting room.

Long pause. The woman looks close up into the camera.)

Anyone there? Doo? (Yelling)... tamales! Happy Anniversary? (Laughing) Back to punching ID numbers on Zoom. See what other friends I can find to talk to!

(She puts her giant gas mask back on and starts to sing “A Coal Miner’s Daughter” again, as the screen goes dark and the play ends.)