

The Waitress

Production & Prompt Guide

A complete, repeatable workflow for a 15-second cinematic 3D dating drama — from three locked character references to the final render, all in one candlelit restaurant with no dialogue.

15 sec · 9:16 vertical · Pixar look · No dialogue · Built for virality

THE IDEA

He looks up for the waitress — never for her.

The cruelest heartbreaks are the quiet ones. She sits across from him at a candlelit table, waiting for him to lift his head from his phone. He never does — until the blonde waitress arrives with a glass of red wine, and suddenly he's all warmth and flirtation, holding her eye a beat too long. She saw the whole thing. Her expression falls without a word, without drama, and she looks down at her plate beside a single untouched rose. The entire story is told in three faces and one gaze that lands on the wrong person. No dialogue, no music — restaurant sound only. Premium Pixar-style render, emotionally restrained, warm amber candlelight.

WORKFLOW AT A GLANCE

01. Design characters — Lock her, him and the waitress as references.
02. Build key frames — Three stills: the wait, the flirtation, the fall.
03. Animate the reel — Feed refs + master prompt, render 9:16 at 15s.
04. Polish & post — Restaurant SFX, gold title card, publish to Reels.

CHARACTER REFERENCE IMAGES

Consistency is everything — three faces have to stay identical across every shot, or the story reads as a mistake instead of a moment. Lock her, him and the waitress as clean references in Nano Banana (Gemini) or GPT Image, then upload all three. Because the whole reel lives at one candlelit table, keep the restaurant, the plates and the single red rose consistent throughout too.

Her (The Woman Waiting) — Late twenties, fair skin with light freckles across her nose and cheeks, hazel-green eyes with long lashes, defined dark brows, full lips, long thick wavy chestnut-brown hair loose past her shoulders. Elegant black top with a soft V neckline, small stud earrings. Her face and hair must match the reference in every shot.

Him (The Distracted Date) — A handsome man in his thirties, fair skin, short dark brown hair neatly styled, neat trimmed stubble, warm brown eyes. Charcoal suit, white shirt, dark patterned tie. Head down in his phone until the waitress arrives — then all warmth. Identical in every shot.

The Waitress (The Interruption) — A striking blonde woman in her twenties, fair skin, blonde hair pulled back into a sleek tight high ponytail, bright eyes. Crisp fitted black shirt and a long black apron. Sets down a glass of red wine, catches his eye and smiles back. Identical in every shot.

STORYBOARD THE WAIT, THE FLIRTATION AND THE FALL

[THE WAIT] Wide two-shot at the candlelit table. He eats one-handed, scrolling his phone, head down. She sits opposite, watching, waiting.

[THE FLIRTATION] The waitress sets down the red wine. He lifts his head instantly, eyes following her, a warm flirtatious smile. She smiles back and holds it a beat too long.

[THE FALL] Close-up on her. She saw all of it. Her expression falls, quietly, without drama. She looks away, then down at her plate.

KEY FRAME · THE FLIRTATION

THE FLIRTATION FRAME

[STYLE] Premium Pixar / Illumination 3D animation, glossy feature-film render, warm candlelight, deep amber and gold tones, cinematic shallow depth of field. Elegant restaurant. 9:16.

[ACTION]

HIM: charcoal suit, white shirt, dark tie – lifts his head from the phone, eyes following the waitress, giving her a warm flirtatious smile.

THE WAITRESS: blonde hair in a sleek tight high ponytail, crisp black shirt and long black apron – sets down a glass of red wine, catches his eye and smiles back flirtatiously, holding it a beat too long.

[FOREGROUND] HER – freckles, hazel-green eyes, loose chestnut-brown hair, elegant black top – sits opposite, watching it happen.

[NEGATIVE] No dialogue, no subtitles, no on-screen text, no exaggerated acting, no identity drift, no wardrobe change.

TIMELINE

0:00–0:03 The wait — wide two-shot; he eats and scrolls, head down, never looking up; she watches, waiting.

0:03–0:06 Close-up on her — brow faintly furrowed, waiting for him to look up. He does not.

0:06–0:09 The waitress arrives with red wine — he lifts his head, smiles flirtatiously; she catches his eye and smiles back, holding it a beat too long before moving away.

0:09–0:12 Close-up on her — she saw all of it; her expression falls quietly, she looks away, then down at her plate.

0:12–0:15 She sits behind the food and a single red rose, deflated and still; behind her he still watches the waitress cross the room, phone forgotten. Hold on the two of them.

THE 15-SECOND MASTER PROMPT

This is the whole thing — copy it, swap the interruption (a text, an old flame, a phone call) and you have your own quiet-heartbreak series.

MASTER PROMPT · THE WAITRESS

CINEMATIC 3D AI CARTOON MINI-STORY – THE WAITRESS

[STYLE] Vertical 9:16, 15 seconds. Premium Pixar and Illumination style 3D animation, glossy feature-film render, soft rounded stylized forms, large expressive eyes, warm cinematic subsurface skin shading, high-detail stylized hair. Emotionally restrained, no exaggerated cartoon acting. Cinematic shallow depth of field, warm candlelight, deep amber and gold tones. NO DIALOGUE, no subtitles, no on-screen text, no music.

[CHARACTERS – use the uploaded reference images]

HER: her face and hair MUST MATCH THE REFERENCE IMAGE. A beautiful woman in her late twenties, fair skin with light freckles across her nose and cheeks, hazel-green eyes with long lashes, defined dark eyebrows, full lips, long thick wavy chestnut-brown hair worn loose past her shoulders. An elegant black top with a soft V neckline, small stud earrings. Identical in every shot.

HIM: a handsome man in his thirties, fair skin, short dark brown hair neatly styled, neat trimmed stubble, warm brown eyes, a charcoal suit with a white shirt and a dark patterned tie. Identical in every shot.

THE WAITRESS: a striking blonde woman in her twenties, fair skin, blonde hair pulled back into a sleek tight high ponytail, bright eyes, a crisp fitted black shirt and a long black apron. Identical in every shot.

[TIMELINE] 0:00-0:03 Wide two shot at a candlelit table in an elegant restaurant. He eats with one hand while scrolling his phone with the other, head down, never once looking up. She sits opposite watching him, waiting. · 0:03-0:06 Close-up on her face. She watches him, brow faintly furrowed, waiting for him to look up. He does not. · 0:06-0:09 The blonde waitress arrives at the table with a glass of red wine. He immediately lifts his head from the phone, his eyes follow her, and he gives her a warm flirtatious smile. She sets the glass down, catches his eye and smiles back at him flirtatiously, holding it a beat too long before moving away. · 0:09-0:12 Close-up on her. She saw all of it. Her expression falls, quietly, without drama. She looks away, then down at her plate. · 0:12-0:15 She sits behind the food and a single red rose, looking off to the side, deflated and still. Behind her he is still watching the waitress cross the room, phone forgotten in his hand. Hold on the two of them.

[AUDIO] SFX ONLY, no music: low restaurant murmur, cutlery on plates, a phone tapping, a wine glass set down on the table, footsteps moving away, one quiet breath.

[NEGATIVE] No dialogue, no speech, no talking, no lip movement, no narration, no subtitles, no captions, no on-screen text, no readable phone screen, no watermark, no logos, no photorealism, no live-action, no semi-realistic style, no exaggerated cartoon acting, no goofy expressions, no crying, no confrontation, no raised voices, no identity drift, no wardrobe change, no distorted hands or extra fingers.

QUALITY CHECKLIST

- [] All three characters look identical to their reference images in every beat (identity consistency)
- [] The setting stays consistent — same candlelit table, plates and single red rose throughout
- [] His head only comes up once — for the waitress, never for her
- [] Her arc reads instantly: waiting -> hopeful -> she sees it -> quietly falls
- [] Acting stays restrained — no crying, no confrontation, no raised voices
- [] SFX only — no dialogue, no music, no subtitles, no on-screen text
- [] 9:16, 15 seconds, 720p or better, gold title used sparingly

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