

A HAPPY WIFE A HAPPY LIFE

Written by

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Inspired By "A Happy Man"
by Anton Chekhov

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EXT. PARIS CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT - DAY

IDRIS early 40s, 6ft tall, dark brown skin, an athletic build, wears a tan hat, holds his wife Ava's hand. AVA early 40s, 5ft tall, and wears a long fitted tan one piece pants suit taps her feet.

Idris and Ava are stand in front of the airport to wait for a tour bus. The crowd of people bump into them.

IDRIS

Baby, this crowd is so crazy. This will ruin our trip.

AVA

I know. It's a new country. The chaos makes me nervous.

Idris smiles.

IDRIS

Baby, I'll protect you. We are about to have the time of our lives.

AVA

I am so blessed to be married to such a genuinely happy man. Traveling with you is always fun.

IDRIS

Despite life's obstacles, I choose to be a happy man for you and me.

Twenty tour buses arrive. The rambunctious crowd splits Idris and Ava's hands apart. Idris turns and doesn't see Ava.

He turns and sees Ava enter tour bus #1. She looks toward the back of the tour bus as she enters.

AVA

Idris! Idris!

Idris runs toward tour bus #1, but it quickly pulls away.

He gets on the only other tour bus, #10 that has a vacant seat.

INT. PARIS #10 TOUR BUS - DAY

Idris calls Ava, but her phone vibrates in his pocket.

IDRIS

Damn, I'm an idiot. She put her
cell phone into my pocket.

PRINCE, early 40s, light brown skin, skinny, 6ft tall, and
wears a black track walks toward Idris.

PRINCE

Idris! Idris! Hey man, It's me,
Prince.

Idris stands up to see the person calling his name. He
recognizes his college friend Prince.

Price walks to the back of the tour bus. He exchanges seats
with the lady sitting by Idris.

Idris and Prince stare at each other for a moment.

IDRIS

It's good seeing you, Prince.
Unfortunately, I have strangely
just lost my wife in a crowd
waiting for our tour bus.

PRINCE

What! Man, you just lost your wife,
Ava?

IDRIS

Yea, one minute she was holding my
hand, and the next she was gone. I
saw her getting on the #1 tour bus.

PRINCE

This seems really strange. Do you
have any more details?

IDRIS

Yea, I could have sworn she was
looking toward the back of the bus.
I tried to run to catch it, but it
pulled off so quickly.

PRINCE

Man, this is crazy. I promise I
will do my best to help you find
Ava. She is a wonderful woman.
You're lucky.

IDRIS

I know. She is my world. Thank you.

The #10 tour bus stops on Rue Oberkampf street.

EXT. PARIS RUE OBERKAMPF STREET - DAY

Idris and Prince walk behind the crowd to get to the front of the bus.

IDRIS

Where did the #1 tour bus stop?

The BUS DRIVER late 50s, overweight, short male, and holds the steering wheel.

#10 BUS DRIVER

I have no clue where the #1 tour bus stopped. I am just driving today as a favor for my friend.

IDRIS

I need to find my wife. We were separated. So, you don't know anything?

#10 BUS DRIVER

This street is a great one to start your search. It's a top tourist attraction.

Idris and Prince exit the #10 tour bus on Rue Oberkampf. Idris pats his head.

IDRIS

Prince, I just realized I lost my hat. There is something really strange going on.

PRINCE

What kind of hat?

IDRIS

It is a tan Panama hat with a white band. When I think about it, I saw a man wearing a hat like that, sitting in the back of #1 tour bus!

PRINCE

Idris, just calm down for a second. Let's have a drink. I can see your hands trembling.

Idris sits, slightly smiles, sips his drink and gaze at the pretty sky.

Suddenly, Idris stands up, and the smile disappears.

IDRIS

We need to walk the crowded streets to search for Ava. Look for any man that is wearing a tan Panama hat with a white band.

PRINCE

Okay, sounds like a plan. I haven't beat anyone's ass since college. I still will if it comes to that.

IDRIS

Hopefully, it won't come to violence. I pray Ava is just lost as a result of our own negligence.

Idris and Prince stare in the crowd for any signs of Ava and the tan Panama hat with a white band.

Idris and Prince go into bars and shops in search for Ava.

PRINCE

Idris, we have been searching on Rue Oberkampf Street for two hours. Do you think we should try another street?

IDRIS

No, the bus driver said this is a perfect street to stay on. It's so crowded too, so I know there is a chance.

PRINCE

Okay man, I'm with you until Ava is found.

IDRIS

I'm sorry your trip to Paris is being ruined. I know how much you love it here.

PRINCE

Don't you worry about that. It is so unusual to see you so unhappy. We all joke behind your back, and refer to you as "The happy man."

IDRIS

The sun is setting! I just knew we would find her before night.

EXT. PARIS RUE OBERKAMPF STREET - NIGHT

A lot of loud laughter by drunk people crowd the night streets.

IDRIS

Prince, look between the woman with the all white and the man with a green hat on the corner. Do you see what I see?

Prince leans forward, squints his eyes, and sees a brown skin man has on a tan Panama hat with a white band a half-block ahead.

UNKNOWN MAN late 20s, 6ft tall, wears a tan Panama hat with a white band, and walks fast.

PRINCE

Yea man, I see him. Come on.

Idris and Prince walk a steady fast pace follows the unknown man in the tan Panama hat.

The unknown man constantly looks behind him.

PRINCE (CONT'D)

Idris, he looks so suspicious. He looks up to no good.

IDRIS

I know one thing. I'd better find my wife.

Idris and Prince stay steps behind the unknown man on the crowded streets.

The unknown man looks back. Idris and the unknown man make eye contact.

IDRIS (CONT'D)

Prince, did you see that? He just made eye contact.

The unknown man begins to run very fast and knocks over people that are in his path.

PRINCE

This fool is running people over. Let's go, man.

Idris and Prince run fast chases the unknown man.

They lose him.

IDRIS
Damn!Damn!Damn!

PRINCE
Get it together, man. We can't lose focus now. Do you want to call the police?

IDRIS
No, not yet. I don't want to waste time right now making a report. That will be time I could have spent searching for Ava.

PRINCE
Yeah, that is true. In most countries a missing black woman is not high on the list of priorities, anyway.

Idris and Prince give each other a secret handshake, and shake their heads.

They walk a few blocks and see the unknown man coming out of a store with a bag.

IDRIS
This time let's walk slowly. Thank God, there are not as many people on this block.

Idris and Prince quietly follow the unknown man.

Idris and Prince follow the man to an apartment that's located above a bar.

IDRIS (CONT'D)
Prince, I don't think he saw you. Will you slowly follow him up the steps to see exactly what apt # he enters?

PRINCE
Okay man, I'll be right back.

INT. PARIS RUE APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Prince follows the unknown man up four flights of steps to apt. #311. Prince runs back down the four flights of steps.

PRINCE
He is in apt. #311.

Prince grabs Idris and hugs him.

IDRIS
Prince, are you ready?

PRINCE
I was born ready.

Idris and Prince arrive at apt. #311.

Idris and Prince kick the door simultaneously with extreme force.

The door falls off the hinge.

THE UNKNOWN MAN
Are ya'll insane. This is my
apartment. I can kill both of you
tourists.

Ava sits on a torn up couch with her hands tied and mouth taped.

Idris unties Ava's hands and takes the duck tape off her mouth.

Ava, has tears stream down her face, gets up off the ragged couch, and hugs Idris.

Ava stands upright, stretches and takes a deep breath.

AVA
Idris! I am so happy to see you.
This animal has been torturing me.
I told him you would find me.

IDRIS
You sicko, you kidnapped my wife! I
should kill you.

THE UNKNOWN MAN/KIDNAPPER
You Americans are so easy to fool.
All I had to do was steal your hat
to steal your wife.

IDRIS
If I were you I would shut up!

The kidnapper looks at the door that leads outside. He runs toward the door. Prince trips the kidnapper with his foot. The kidnapper falls on the floor.

Prince grabs a broom and viciously beats the kidnapper.

Idris, Ava, and Prince leave the kidnapper bloody on the floor.

Idris calls #112 for emergency.

IDRIS (CONT'D)

Hello operator, I am reporting a kidnapper at apt. #311 in building the Rue.

THE END