

THE DEGRAVITATION HONEYMOON

The Degravitation Honeymoon was first produced at Big Bend Community College, Moses Lake, Washington, on June 12, 1992. It was directed by Elsie Martin, with Pete Ortega as "Kip," Kristi Deycous as "Felicity," and Remina Jorgensen as "Pepper."

Time and Locale: The present, in a rural, slow-paced, small-town cafe.

Characters: KIP, in his twenties, dressed in a wacky tourist get-up.

FELICITY, Kip's bride, dressed in a nice summer dress maybe bought at K-Mart.

PEPPER, a woman in her twenties, a photographer, dressed sensually in semi-western wear.

KIP and FELICITY are sitting at a table at an outdoor cafe, wine glasses in front of them

KIP. Didja ever think Bugs Bunny was good lookin' when he was dressed as a woman?

FELICITY. Oh. . . I don't think I've ever been so happy!

KIP. Bugs always struck me as being an attention hound.

FELICITY. This is just the most fabulous honeymoon.

KIP. What did you say, darling?

FELICITY. Oh. . . Just a sweet nothing.

KIP. A sweet nothing?

FELICITY. I just love being married. . . to you. [*She gives him a peck on the cheek.*]

KIP. We're so happy . . . for now.

FELICITY. For now . . . Yes, for now.

KIP. I haven't been this happy since high school!

FELICITY. The poor late lamented Bugs Bunny. Didja know his great great great grandbunnies live in Spokane? That's right.

These bunnies live in Spokane. In cages. In cages in Spokane. But they eat loads of carrots. Like they're well treated. . . and. . .

KIP. Yes?

FELICITY. They breed like. . . **THEY BREED LIKE RABBITS**, Kip! [*Kip coughs.*] Kip, are you listening? They breed like damned rabbits. All these little Bugs Bunnies! In coed cages!

KIP. We vowed to each other!

FELICITY. But we're *married!*

KIP. For eternity!

FELICITY. But shouldn't we consume it?

KIP. *Consummate?* No, we agreed. Knowing what we know, we agreed. We made a pact: no breeding, and no false breeding. It's not right to breed, not while we know what we know!

FELICITY. Knowing what we know. . . But Kip. . .

KIP. No, please. . . I want to. . . to consummate our marriage as much as you do, but we know the truth!

FELICITY. Truth. . .

KIP. Yes.

FELICITY [*Pause.*] Still. . . I have not felt this happy since high school. I was in the adopt-a-grave program!

KIP. Adopt-a-grave?

FELICITY. In Prescott, Arizona. At the Pioneers' Graveyard. We all went out on Saturdays, with Brillo Pads, and we really cleaned up those old tombstones!

KIP [*Pause.*] Sad to think that all that work will be degravitated.

FELICITY. I try to look at the uplifting part of it.

KIP. And uplifting it will be, darling Felicity.

FELICITY. At any moment it will happen! [*They both look skyward.*] A huge, cold celestial body is gonna shoot outta space right at us! Its gravity pull will be stronger than Earth's! It will start tugging, this huge, big-gravity blob of meteor or a stray planet. This tugging planet will be so close to Earth and in a few minutes it will all be over for all of us.

KIP. It will be ugly and it will be beautiful. [*PEPPER enters, sets up a tripod.*]

FELICITY. All human life, bunnies included, will be snatched from the surface of the planet.

KIP. But first all of our clothes will be ripped and sucked off of all of our bodies.

FELICITY. Yes, we'll be naked, pure, pure, pure. . .

KIP. Pure. . .

FELICITY. Pure in our celibacy!

KIP. And as if caught in a tornado, we'll all shoot up off the Earth.

A few minutes later, heavier stuff, skyscrapers and redwood trees will shoot up out of the Earth's atmosphere.

FELICITY. We'll all rocket up to this huge blob of gravity.

KIP. And the Earth will break into millions of pieces and it will follow us. [*PEPPER now has her tripod camera set up.*]

PEPPER. Hi, folks.

KIP. Pardon me?

PEPPER. Don't mind me. My name's Pepper. And I'm just waiting for Tater.

FELICITY [*To KIP.*] Kip, darling, let's go be like a whole bunch of Bugs Bunnies, please.

KIP [*To PEPPER.*] We're on our honeymoon.

PEPPER. That so?

KIP. Yes. So we were wondering if we could have some privacy.

PEPPER [*To FELICITY*] Honeymoon? Uh. . . Was it fun? That grand opening?

FELICITY [*Pause*] We've been expecting degravitation.

PEPPER. Cool. What is degravitation?

KIP. You might not understand.

PEPPER. Say, let me take your picture.

FELICITY. Will you, really?

KIP. We may not have time for it.

FELICITY. Please, Kip, please?

PEPPER. Everyone's got time for a picture.

KIP. But you're waiting for a potato.

PEPPER. No, no, silly: I said *Tater*. I'm waiting for Tater.

FELICITY. Oh, do take our picture. Our wedding was very private, only degravitationists. So we don't have any pictures.

PEPPER [*Setting up the camera.*] Married, huh? Wow. I might like that. [*Pause.*] I don't want Tater to know it, but I'm a waterbed. Hell, I'm a whole damned bedroom. And I got a window that opens! [*Pause*] Smile. [*PEPPER takes their picture.*]

KIP. Thank you. . . Now we can use some privacy. [*PEPPER joins their table and takes a sip from each wine glass.*]

PEPPER. Tater opens my window and he can see the Rockies, pine trees and rivers. Sunlight filters through the pines and it falls all over me. It feels warm to him, if you know what I mean. [*Pause.*] So, folks, what's the address? [*KIP and FELICITY look at each other, but don't respond.*] So. . . yer gonna live

with her parents, huh? [*PEPPER gets up and sets the timer on the camera and sits down again.*] I'm gonna take a pic of myself. As if it's for *People* magazine. I take a lot of pics of myself. You know, to get in touch.

FELICITY. Pepper?

KIP. Felicity, we ought to get back to the motel.

PEPPER. Yeah?

FELICITY. We are people who believe in degravitation. And the purity of celibacy.

PEPPER. That's okay. I got nothin' against that. See. . . In my closet I got masks. It's full of masks. I own over four-hundred masks. Some of them are used masks.

KIP. Someday they'll get sucked into outer space. That's what Felicity and I believe. [*KIP takes FELICITY'S hand as if to leave, but she jerks him back down.*]

FELICITY. And who is Tater?

PEPPER. My friend, sort of, if you know what I mean.

KIP. Please, Felicity, before it's too late. We've been warned about those who want to tempt us, tempt us to fall from certitude.

PEPPER [*Stands to take more pictures.*] You're so cute. Cute as bugs!

KIP [*To FELICITY.*] Did she say Bugs?

PEPPER. I also buy up old clothes at thrift shops. Like black slips. Also old cowgirl stuff. Tater does go 'round with me, but don't tell him anything I tell you. Tater says I'm a kitchen, always cooking something up. Tater thinks I tell him the truth. He says to me, "What do ya take with yer camera?" I tell Tater, "I shoot nude guys." [*KIP tries to leave again, but FELICITY pulls him down.*] Nude guys! This is when we first meet at the rodeo. See, I go to rodeos, to check out the cowboys, their jeans. Wrangler butts drive me nuts!

KIP. We must get going, really.

FELICITY. Pepper, you seem so. . . so wise, yet earthy.

KIP. Wise? Where did that come from?

PEPPER. Why thank you.

FELICITY. Do you believe in science and the possibilities of overness?

PEPPER. Overness?

KIP. The end of life as we know it. The end of this planet of misery.

PEPPER. I believe in Tater, bareback broncs, and in taking nude pictures, the naked self-portrait. It can teach you loads.

KIP. Young woman, what is it you want? Money? I'll pay you to leave my bride and me alone. How much? Five dollars? Ten?

PEPPER [*To FELICITY.*] He sure does get into a fever, don't he? [*Pause.*] Oh, yeah, the naked self-portraits can teach you loads. Like how modest you are. What your body image is. What sorts of risks you'll take. And the naked self-portrait will tell you how creative you are.

FELICITY. Kip, darling, let's give her our address and then rush back to our motel room.

KIP [*Pause.*] Felicity, we. . . we. . .

FELICITY. Yes?

PEPPER. But most folks don't handle a camera real good. So for twenty bucks, I can do the portraits, artfully of course, and in the best taste, right in your motel room.

FELICITY. For only twenty dollars?

KIP. DARLING, WE ARE FALLING FROM GRACE!

PEPPER. Hey, don't be uptight, pal. Let your wife really thrill you. I've got some used black nighties she can probably fit into. A guy can't hide what he likes, not if he doesn't want to drive himself nuts. A woman is like one of them old time Cadillacs, with low-swung dreamlines.

FELICITY. Kip, we could just take a picture. Nothing more. We could have two copies made. Then we could look at that picture, look at it as the great big outlaw planet with huge gravity, as all that gravity sucks us into outer space. We'll have the pictures. You and I know we can't always count on holding hands when it starts to suck the Earth away.

PEPPER. She's got a point, buddy.

KIP. [*To PEPPER,*] I'll pay you twenty dollars just to walk away!

PEPPER. Nope. I'm an artist. I only take money for the pictures. [*PEPPER goes to KIP and quickly kisses his lips, an affable peck.*] Stop bein' such an ol' stew 'n fret. You can do better 'n that, can't you?

FELICITY. Kip! You just let her kiss you!

KIP. No, I didn't.

PEPPER. Yes, he did. I can't believe it myself. It must mean he wants us to do the photo shoot.

KIP. No! *No! No!*

FELICITY. Kip, that was unfaithful of you!

PEPPER. I might forgive him, if I were you.

KIP. Felicity, we love each other! We can't let this derail us. We have something vital in common: *degravitation!*

PEPPER [To FELICITY.] You know what love is, honey? It's taking a picture of Tater all naked on a Sunday morning, naked in his Stetson and hooks and him and me standing 'round some 4-wheel drive junkyard.

FELICITY. Kip, the first time I saw you at the degravitation rally, I saw you as a horse, but you had a mustache and you kept reminding me of a jackrabbit, of Bugs Bunny! Touch me, Kip. [KIP backs away from FELICITY, but PEPPER shoves him back toward her.]

KIP. Felicity, do you truly think I look like Bugs? [FELICITY embraces KIP and they slowly semi-dance around and around in a circle as PEPPER photographs them from different angles.]