

History:

In 2009, a FOX executive requested Russ create a modern-day Cary Grant romantic comedy for his friend Hugh Jackman. "*Hooked Up*" is a story inspired by an actual event where two blind dates, Bob and Penny, become teasingly handcuffed by a female prankster, Carol, costumed as a dominatrix. The amused couple titter into the crowd as the dominatrix, Russ, and another friend, unthinking about the pair, exit to another party with the key in hand. At dawn, the hungover Carol awakens to Bob on the other line. After sharing bathroom duties and a hopeless late-night search for a key, a local fire station, "*Jaws of Life*," extricates the couple. Bob leaves Penny in a dangled half-cuff at her doorstep. *No goodnight kiss.*

Russ pitched the story with an added twist and was honored to earn a script order. However, as things sometimes evolve, plans change, so he parked the idea, waiting for another day. Thirteen years later, "*Hooked Up*" now has a completed script with the hope of this humorous tale coming to life on screen.

Story:

Perky, early 30s, natural beauty **Kendall Adam** will do anything short of selling her body to rescue a failing collectibles business. Praying to God and her deceased father, relief miraculously appears when BFF assistant **Molly** shouts a call from wealthy eccentric client **Thornton Glazier**, 70, who is desperate to save his relationship with a twenty-something lover.

The high-stakes assignment is to bid on a pair of rare diamond-encrusted handcuffs for Thornton to pledge his fidelity. The auction in two days, and communication via cell. Excited Molly and relieved Kendall celebrate.

However, the task spins to disaster when Kendall's phone dies during a heated contest with a snarky male competitor. A desperate outcry to wait attracts nearby mega-buck's bachelor **Zack Chandler**, who swiftly outbids the spiteful contender to ask Kendall on a date.

Kendall's tear-filled plea for the cuffs returns a smile and a dinner invitation. After a moment of thought, Kendall agrees, then reverses the decision, aware of Zack's notorious reputation. Negotiations hit a wall when Zack's jovial sidekick, **Larry**, late for a Knicks game, slaps the cuffs on the couple and orders them to cut a deal at the event. Outraged, Kendall's shrieks send Larry scurrying for a key he frightfully learns is in London.

Helplessly manacled after a frantic search for a locksmith, the pair end up tangled in bed. The situation escalates when mortified Kendall is forced to share bathroom duties. Zack playfully revels in the gag while Kendall fumes to oust him from her life and rescue the business.

Forced to join Zach at obligatory football Sunday lunch with **Granny**, Kendall freaks when she finds the cuffs are in Boston. A full-speed, reckless race on a remote shortcut, ends with Zach's Rolls on an empty tank. Oblivious, two terrorist thieves armed with the key are on their tail, with the duo soon helplessly bound to a pole minus precious cuffs.

Huddled like frozen popsicles, a cheery tow truck driver, **Floyd**, arrives and delivers the duo to thaw in a nearby diner with Kendall's world kaput. Zach's consoling orders two Martinis as hysterical, Kendall sobs in a nearby corner. A lightning bolt strikes as Kendall recalls overhearing a clue to the thieves' destination.

Prepared for battle, Kendall presses Zach into action and borrows Floyd's truck to a waterfront warehouse. The duo penetrates the massive building and quickly comes face to face with the thieves. In fight mode, Kendall turns *Zumba Queen* with *Kung Fu* flips and kicks while Zach awkwardly attempts to mimic.

An airborne "*catch the cuffs*" game soon ends the melee with the flummoxed "*baddies*" crashing and flattening like two dead Gumbie's. However, the group's sinister kingpin suddenly enters and captures Kendall.

Torn between ruining his tuxedo and saving a life, Zach dives off a crate and flattens the grizzly man as the FBI swarms in to finish the job. Shocked they collared an international crime lord, the duo accept thanks for their heroism and quickly exit with the cuffs, minus secret earth-shattering codes.

Kendall and Zack push the old truck to Chicago and foot race to discover giddy Thornton aside a new twenty-something with no need for the cuffs. Shocked, crumbled to the floor in tears, Kendall quickly recovers when the horny old bachelor hands her a significant check for effort.

Exhausted in a shredded tuxedo, Zack drives Kendall home, grouching at her for giving away his Rolls to Floyd. The adventure ends at Kendall's apartment with a "*been grand*" smile, handshake, and "*see you sometime*" goodbye.

Two weeks pass as Zack reminisces at the cuffs, scanning a promise letter from granny owning her great-grandchildren. A moment of deep reflection passes as he shouts to Larry his lascivious bachelor days are over.

Across town, Kendall grudgingly confesses to Molly that the obnoxious wayward bachelor she once loathed is the one that finally captured her heart. Prodded, Kendall reluctantly accepts the earlier promised dinner, unaware of Zach's romantic island hideaway.

A jet ride away, Zach and Kendall reminisce over a sumptuous beachfront dinner. The duo laughs at the crazy experience when their eyes inquisitively meet. A moonlit stroll takes them hand in hand to a grove under two tall trees, where Zack muses about how his father proposed to his mother. When mom said *yes*, two coconuts fell at their sides.

History repeats on a gloriously romantic evening as Kendall deeply searches Zach's eyes and discovers she has finally found her soul mate. Like a nervous schoolboy, Zach looks back into her eyes with a sincere smile, finally realizing his real purpose and true love. A moment and "*Will you?*" returns a tearful "*Yes! Oh yes!*"

One Year Later -

Joyfully united, Zack and Kendall push a stroller through Central Park with doppelganger boy and girl twins. Kendall gives her business to Molly, now engaged to Larry, and Zach exits the mega company where he and Kendall found a billion-dollar charity for world peace.