

Postcards for New Year.

idea 20.11.2017



Samantha made a little bit louder music. She one more time remind herself that in general she does what she dreamed to do, be creative and help others in this. But she imagined to herself something more epic, not what she had now - event for “Bored Women’s Club”. Definitely special, not like for everyone. Handmade postcards for New Year to surprise close friends after Christmas with more attention and warmth.

“Bored Women’s Club” it explains everything. Why on Earth they called themselves that way? Just women who have no idea what to do, but felt themselves creative. In which art? Now it was Samantha’s headache or proper job. Art director always sounds impressive, no matter that you work from your living room.

After living in France Samantha chose her friend’s rule and decorated house in seven days before Christmas, not earlier. It helps to not be stressed and used to holidays and just enjoy everything enough time.

So to show holiday’s spirit, Samantha chose green pencil skirt, red kitten heel’s shoes and red blouse with brooch in form of snowflake. It was enough bright, it reminds about winter, if snow on the streets wasn’t prove that “Christmas will come to town”.

Scissors, papers, lot of colour papers were at big table. Everything from Nicky’s list for creative mood – New Year’s hand made postcards – what could be better start counting holiday season. Also was some wine, picked personally by Veronica, to start counting glasses, for pleasant time spending after not hard work.

Driver already phoned that he picked up artist who will teach this master class. Now Nicky had more free time, Christmas postcards already were made and send. December usually was less busy month.

Doorbell rang and Samantha opened the door to woman, slim and tall, who looked like a mess.

- I broke up with him. - Nicky made two steps inside, sat on lemon sofa in the lobby and started to cry.

- She didn't stop crying for a moment. Read phone and cried louder. - Explained John, driver of Veronica, founder of the club controlled all. - Here are her bags.

Four bags of mint colour with pink smiling hearts on them were in noticeable disconnection with Nicky's mood.

- Thank you. - Samantha show where to put her belongings. - John, please, don't tell Veronica. I am certain that fix everything myself.

- Sure. - Nodded John.

Door closed and what Samantha has now is big problem. This problem sobbed on the sofa, her dramatic dark hair made more red her face and grey eyes were totally swollen.

Samantha can't believe, disaster at her first event for "Bored Women's Club", it shouldn't be that way. She planned different year, not comparable with boredom of previous, like warned her Veronica. No matter that Samantha then wasn't part of club or even reside in this town.

- It shouldn't be that way. - Moaned Nicky, unconditionally using Samantha's words and repeating her thoughts.

- What happened? - Samantha knew that it was wrong question but she needed to start somewhere. To know how to solve it, she needs to find out with what she is dealing.

- I broke Christmas rule. - Nicky told it, like explained history of her life in tiny details beginning from time of christening.

- What Christmas rule? - Samantha with pain remembered how many hours she listened to Christmas carols to show interesting play list and made a difference in New Year's choice of songs.

- Never broke up before Christmas. - Nicky stop sobbing by surprise. She shouldn't explain ordinary rules by which she lived since school days.

- Why is such rule? - Samantha honestly had no idea, not only played role of good friend.

- To not upset person before Christmas. - Nicky looked at woman in disbelief.

- I see. - Samantha thought is it correct rule for both – boyfriends and girlfriends. In own defend she could only tell that had no idea about such rule year ago, when made decision.

- He started it, in general. He said that for me is no place at his house for Christmas dinner. - Nicky started to explain to Samantha's as for close friend her private life.

- It sound rather strange. - Samantha sit on the arm-chair in front of the sofa, was time when decorator disagree with her and was against so much sitting places in such small entrance as not useful, now was proper time to prove him wrong.

- I know. - Nicky definitely felt better, when found un murmuring listener. - I told him that could stay in the hotel. It's not big deal, I could pay for it. And he...

- Didn't mean spare room. - Finished Samantha.

Nicky's sobbing was instead of answer.

- He proposed to stay with ours families and not together. It will be better for now. He suggested that it will be strange if he invite woman without engagement ring to family gathering. - Nicky said it, made a pause. - And I said that all is over. That's it. Now I feel terrible, but thought that was right idea when wrote it.

- Nicky, I am proud of you. No matter that you have such complicated time in your life, you found strength and came here to our event. Could I propose some drink to you? - Samantha knew that sitting near door not make a change and at first she needs to move Nicky as first step to save whole evening.

- I have no choice. - Nicky pathetically waved with both hands and her violet jacket fell on the floor, she put it near herself.

- What? - Samantha asked.

- I was in the middle of the trip, I couldn't just stop and return. Where to return? - In Nicky's voice was doubt. - In my flat? In his flat? We still didn't live together, we have very conflicting opinions about interior design. I want something fluffy, probably pink. Larry likes functional interior without big purple flowers on the walls.

- Maybe there are other reasons... - Samantha with sadness looked at her preparations, it won't work like she planned.

- I could notice it before, something what could make me think. - Now Nicky paid focused attention to beads butterfly on her jeans.

- I meant... - Samantha talk with Nicky only by phone and believed that woman was too busy to had long conversations with others and hadn't answers instead of "no" and "yes", now she was unstoppable.

- Samantha, have you ever date with womanizer? - She hoped for "yes" as answer, it was clear in her tone. She wanted to know that not only she struggled and there are people who survived after it.

- We all had such dates. - Samantha started to talk more openly, because in conversation Nicky cried less. On the other hand, she hadn't alternative plan.

- You know what he told me. It's all just past. - Nicky looked at the door and didn't noticed decorations. Was she at the proper house or it just driver's mistake? Nicky turned her head and saw whole prepared for workshop room. Maybe this house was for rent? And woman returned to thoughts about own broken heart.

- And he proved that he is not a womaniser. - Suggested Samantha.

- No. Just in his friends circle are mainly women. Lot of men also, but it's not important. Woman whom he dated some time ago, she will be on the family gathering. And that she is sister of husband of his sister it's not explanation. - Nicky started to cry again.

- Now I begin to understand other meaning of idea – let's just be friends. - Samantha mentally revisited situations in which she proposed that.

- I know. And because of this I am here. - Nicky was a little bit victorious.

- Nicky, I am thinking I can't get it.

- Now I am live life without him as he lives life without me. I moved forward. I am free.

- Yes. - Agreed Samantha. - But only few hours passed since your decision. Am I right?

- Time doesn't matter. - Sneezed Nicky.

Doorbell was last from what Samantha needed now.

- Could I come in? - Tall, slim, with long dark hair Veronica Welling was outside.

- Mrs Welling, I don't think if everything is ready. - Samantha hoped that table wasn't noticeable and especially face of Nicky worried her.

- I know that Nicky is here. - Calmly said Veronica.

- Come in. - Samantha was a good hostess, when hadn't other choice.

- He called me. - Veronica sat in the dinning room, her back to Nicky.

Nicky stood up and went to dining room after Veronica. These words were enough that she again focused on Larry's existence.

Samantha walked after her, for a moment she hesitated in the doorway. Nicky and Veronica looks like sisters or better to say twins. Their conversation reminded talk with the mirror. Samantha think for a moment and started to collect scissors.

- And you will tell me that I won't work for you, no more. - Nicky stood in front of Veronica. It looks like both of them were unaware of their resemblance. - Conflict of interests?

Samantha got it, what was going on. Nicky was artist who proposed Veronica. And to Veronica Nicky was suggested by for now ex-boyfriend of Nicky. Complicated situation and also their names.

- Usually I don't talk with Larry about business. He just worries about you, you didn't answer him. - Veronica tried to be polite, but she wrapped herself in the pink coat more, no matter that in room was warm and even a little bit hot, if in such clothes.

- You paid me in advance, I won't cancel workshop. - Nicky tried to be calm, tears was on her face.

- If you heard, I didn't propose that. - Veronica didn't add that agreed to Larry's idea because of own curiosity, to see herself how looks like his recent girlfriend.

- You came here? - Nicky couldn't believe what's going on.

- Veronica as a friend... - Samantha quickly learned that her role as good manager wasn't clearly connected with image of nervous woman with bunch of scissors in hand and it was her job to solve it.

- Not exactly. - Abrupt Veronica.

- Why you came? - Nicky stop crying.

- To check if we won't disappoint our club's members. - Veronica looked at preparation in the room.

Samantha understood that it hasn't nothing to do with her work, but she felt herself betrayed. And maybe Veronica waited for more decorated room in first days of December, in president's of club garden in front of the house already were huge snowmen on the skis and Santa on the roof.

- Nicky will have a presentation in few hours. Thanks for your input. See you in the evening, Mrs Welling. It was nice that you drop by. - Samantha smiled but was convincing. She put scissors on the table, she decided to make her event happen and no one will stop her. - I am certain that you are such busy with your charity work that it will be miracle if you could be with us this evening.

- Samantha, from this depends your work. - Veronica said before close door.

- Everything is under control. - Samantha didn't know if it will work, but she knew how many glazed cookies are on the kitchen table.

- And now to you, Nicky, it's time to prepare presentation. - Began Samantha.

- Did he phone her? After our broke up he discuss that with other woman. What if he had more time? He will organize speed dates? - Nicky again started to cry.

- I have an idea. How about cookie? - Samantha hadn't for now better decision. -
And you could wash your face. I'll show your room.

Samantha couldn't believe in miracle power of her cookies, but in hour before event Nicky was absolutely ready. She combed her hairs, made fresh make up and put on the table additional supplies and examples of postcards which they will make this evening.

- Hand of professional in everything. - Praised her Samantha.

- It's my business part of identity, in my art studio is total mess and I search for supplies for hours, because never knew what I will do next. Here it's routine, I even know what could went wrong. - Said Nicky.

- And what usually went wrong? - Asked Samanta, because she still wasn't sure that Nicky won't has next sessions of endless tears about her boyfriend.

- In such groups always there is leader, most important woman. - Nicky made a pause. - Here I suggest it will be Mrs Welling, she is most hard part of group to melt ice with. I need to neutralize her or divide her from others and than we will have a chance to normal evening.

- Let's pray she will be late... - Doorbell interrupted Samantha. - Hope there is someone else who came earlier.

It was Effie, she was all smiles in white coat and boots, silver dress shined near the collar.

- I am not too early? - Effie touched her perfect haircut and Samantha noticed engagement ring on the finger.

- Effie, did Andy? - Asked Samantha instead of answer.

- Yes, it was such romantic, he stood one knee in the snow...

... and I can't see nothing because of tears. - Finished Effie to tell the same story to Brie. Brie smiled polite smile, she was neighbour of Effie and already saw whole scene from own window, because Effie screamed of excitement loudly enough.

- I am happy for you. - Said Brie aloud and turn up sleeves of her red blouse.

Before that Effie told the same sequence to Gauri. And Gauri this time checked messages on her phone, already liked Effie's post and was glad that she choose bronze dress, because they could be like twins with Effie now.

It was third time when Samantha heard that and already nervously waited when will come Veronica and they all will declaim this story by heart.

- It's such amazing. - One more time said Nicky. - Should we wait more for Veronica or could begin?

- She is always late, her meetings are more important than others. We should start workshop. - Said Brie.

- Yes, such will be better. - Agreed Effie, she wanted to tell story one more time, but didn't want to stress importance of Veronica's presence.

- Very well... - Said Nicky, she had opportunity to have full attention and she needed to surprise and engage "bored". - Let's begin workshop about making special, handmade New Year's postcards.

Samantha looked at the window and hoped that Veronica won't come at all, but it will be too much to ask for.

When Veronica came to door, she heard laugh mixed with sounds of New Year's songs. She decided to be a little bit late to this disaster. But there shouldn't be any fun.

- You are late, Mrs Welling. We started without you. - Said smiling Samantha when opened door.

Veronica put her coat near others.

Nicky stood in front of table, she wore light blue knitted jumper with snowflakes on it and long red skirt. All women nod to Veronica.



- I will continue. - Nodded Nicky. - And all that water which were in the champagne's bucket ended in the fireplace. So we were without light and heat simultaneously. Since that time, when he sees me, he changes side of the street, even if on car. Few little accidents, it proves serious level of feelings.

- Marvellous. - Effie even applauded, main reason for that was to show sparkling engagement ring, because she believed other women didn't pay enough attention to taste of her fiancé and his choice of ruby stone rounded with lot of brilliants.

- And now you could tell why you choose this composition to the postcard. - Suggested Samantha. She wasn't ready to heard one more time Effie's story.

Veronica didn't pay attention to everything what was discussed around her. She only saw that Nicky is smiling and main question for her was – why? Mrs Welling smiled and nodded when was necessary, but heard everything in parts.

- Thanks for your amazing experience and explanations of postcards. And next after champagne's glasses we have postcard with snowman. Who wants to tell a story? - Asked Nicky.

- Me. Me. I. - Cried simultaneously women.

- I am so sorry, I am late. Don't want to spoil whole fun. - Said Veronica, because too long sat quiet. - What's going on here?

Women looked at her with surprise. Samantha get that Veronica was in her thoughts, not in conversation. This was rude to others, but she was hostess, couldn't judge and needed to save evening.

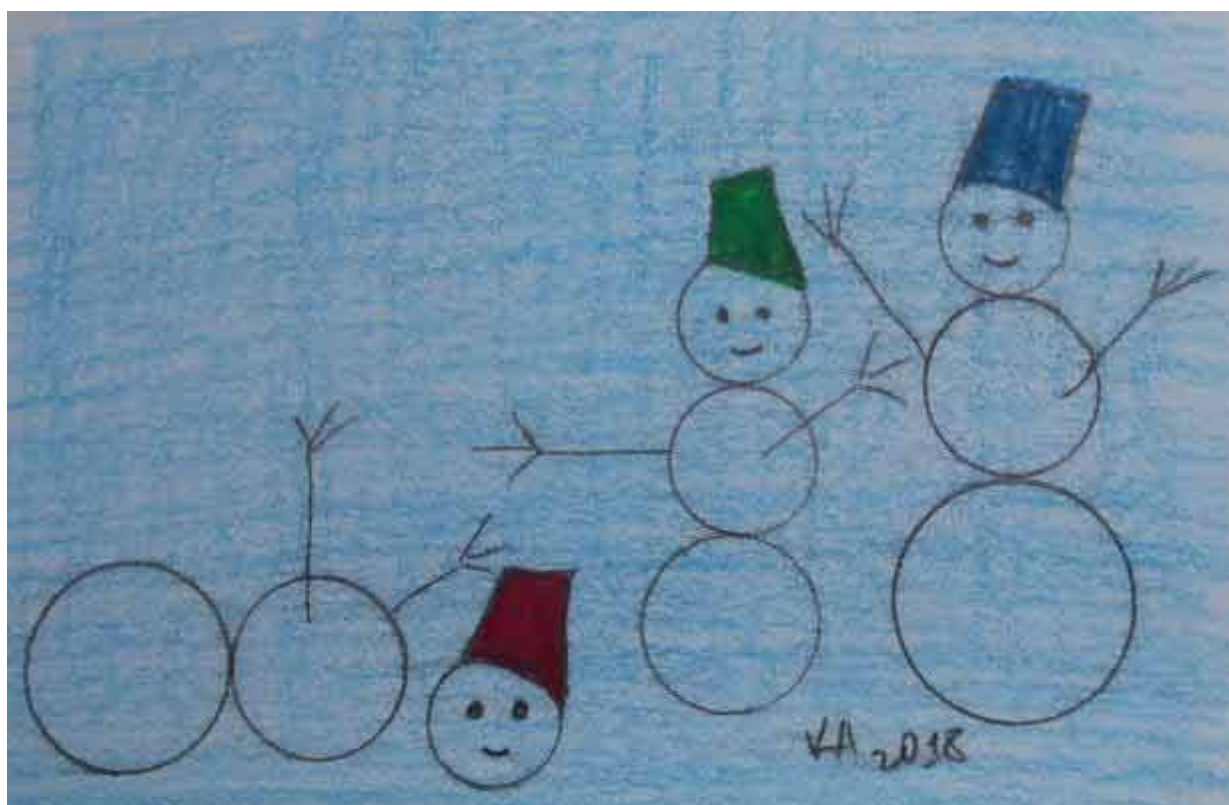
- With each postcard we remember most awful stories which happened during winter holiday's time. - Started explained Samantha.

- Nightmares from Christmas to New Year, something like that. - Added Nicky. - Mrs Welling, you will say something?

- Thank you, but maybe later. - Veronica nervously smiled and wrapped herself tightly in beige cashmere shawl. She missed something and now as terrible story she could only propose this evening.

Snow started to fell again, women were involved in workshop and didn't notice changes of weather.

- And when window broken and snowman's head dropped near Meg's shoes, she screamed like little girl and I thought it wasn't worst New Year's gathering at all. - Finished Gauri and tears of joy were on her eyes.



- For now. Gauri's story is most terrible. But competition is still open. - Nicky smiled. - So back to your postcards, ladies. We are listening.

Funny and sad stories changed each others, there were stories which everyone already heard and new one. Samantha was glad how worked Nicky and evening was almost saved, at least for now. She made postcards with everyone and holiday's mood captured her also.

- It was impressive. - Said Nicky after one more story. - But it's not all. I left it to the end and now is proper time. Postcard with boxes of presents. What worse you saw when untie ribbon? What you returned immediately, secretly burned or gifted to your worst best friend? Here everyone will have own story. Don't worry. But at first, like always I'll explain creative idea of postcard.



Veronica thought that Larry never gave her gifts, it was Mr Welling's habit, to send flowers, little surprises from around the world. Listening to others she believed that never could blame husband for the bad gift or in something else, except that she had broken heart after previous men in her life. Veronica nod again to show interest in other story, this time Samantha's.

- In the end I added to him one more “thank you for not bothering me with thinking – which present should I bought to you. Thank you one more time, I could use all this savings for another spa tour for me. Without love, not yours, Samantha.”

- How he took that? - Asked Veronica who now was deep in conversation and even shared before own stories, her shawl was on the chair’s back.

- Not good. Since that time, as you know, I changed my job. - Samantha smiled. - Broke up with own boss before Christmas not best idea, girls.

- And if he phone you, what will you do? - Asked Brie.

- Will jump on the place and said something calm as answer. - Said honestly Samantha, she now was glad that decided to be part of this club, she really need more social life. - But he still didn’t phone.

Slowly instead of postcards on the table more place began to took cookies and wine, Samantha made change from workshop to pleasant evening smoothly. Firewood crackled in the fireplace, women drank wine and eat cookies. In tea no one was interested.

Draft of big New Year’s card was still in the middle of the room.

Nicky sat on the floor on the fluffy rug and made sketches of fireplace, glass of wine on the floor, she was an artist at first place and almost missed today's sketch.

- How could you be late to such fun, Veronica? - Asked Brie.

- Cats. They again tried to escape. - Veronica looked at the idea of postcard:

“Reasons why I am happy from Christmas till New Year”. Probably she should think more about that and less about Larry, she has now new generous husband, even liked him to the level to call it sympathy with sparkles of passion. Deep in her dreams she believed that Larry will come with Nicky and when see her – Veronica – will change his mind totally and see that was wrong, in the ideal world will be terribly unhappy till the end of his life. Women already call taxis, too much wine, but Veronica didn't hurry, John just used to wait. - You are sure?

- Veronica, if you have car with driver, this doesn't mean that we will use it. -

Answered Gauri.

- Use it all the time. - Added Effie.

- Yes, today we play in independent women. - Giggled Brie, when only from third time managed to find second sleeve in her green coat, with shawl she even didn't begin battle.

- Cars are here. - Said Samantha after looking to the window. - Veronica, I will clean everything myself.

- It's not friendly help, it's order from president of “Bored Woman's Club”. -

Reminded Veronica.

- Bored and a little bit drunk women. - Added Effie.

- Few moments in the winter cold air and you will be fresh, like in the morning. -

Promised Brie.

- For sure, you have no idea how I look in the morning. - Answered Gauri. - And fresh is wrong word for that.

Like always goodbye was longer and louder than necessary for people who live next door to each others, but it was important part of such evenings. Veronica was glad that it all happened such way and that still believed in power of her “bored club”.

Veronica helped to Samantha clean everything from paper’s offcuts, when others at the end left house.

All women went home with bunch of postcards and good mood, it was important. Veronica just didn’t want to drive back home, she felt herself not honest with husband, no matter that nothing happened, she knew it was childish to wait more for miracle and called to John.

- It was really fun. - Veronica came to Samantha to help with last glass.

- It’s not my workshop. - Answered she.

- I know which idea it was. Who saved holidays mood. Thank you. - Veronica smiled at woman. Probably to choose new face as art director, wasn't such awful idea, husband was right.

- It's hard, really hard, Veronica. All kisses and hugs which he received before you and after you. - Samantha whispered, when looked at the empty table. She understood that everything for Veronica was about her ex in today's meeting.

- I change my mind. For now I haven't aim to receive Larry at any cost. I changed or he. Who knows? And I am married woman, happily married woman. - Veronica sighed and showed her trilliant, not vulgar size diamond even not Tiffany's ring with wide wedding ring near it and looked at Nicky. - What about her?

- In her age I made nightmare of break ups to my boyfriend once in a week. - Said Samantha. - It was during first relationships after divorce and I had no idea what I want from man and if he didn't give me that, he received his headache and my tears. So tomorrow will be another workshop?

Samantha tried hard and hoped that Veronica was enough impressed of what she managed to do. Nicky looked calm, wasn't noticeable tracks of hours of tears. Only her voice was deeper and harsh, but for people who didn't know her it wasn't big difference.

- Yes. - Agreed Veronica. - Nicky is good in that and I am happy that she won't be alone in such mood.

- I heard everything. - Came near Nicky. - I am fine, at least I believe that made proper decision, my life without Larry will be better. I thought about that and I am sure now. Totally sure.

Doorbell ringed.

- It probably John, he is here such early. I told him drive slowly, could be ice on the road. I'll tell that will be in few moments. - Veronica went to open a door.

- Larry! - Screamed Veronica when saw another man, the one who she hoped to meet such strongly.

- Evening Veronica, looks good like always. New haircut? Much better. But I want to talk with Nicky. Thanks. - Larry said it as an order, not request. He wore black shirt and blazer, taxi waited on the road.

- Nicky it's for you. - Said Veronica and when turned head saw Samantha and Nicky near the door to dining room.

- Will you come in? Larry, I guess. - Suggested Samantha.

- I am just for a moment, thank you. Nicky? - Larry waited.

- Yes. - Nodded Nicky and quickly went to the evening street.

After closing door, Veronica and Samantha stood near window and looked how Nicky talked with Larry.

- You think it will be too much if we open window to hear voices? - Asked Veronica.

- Yes. And everything will end soon somehow, I hope so. - Suggested Samantha, both Larry and Nicky were without coats and snow started to fall again.

Suddenly Nicky jumped on place, hugged Larry and they both fell laughing in the snow which put from doorway few hours ago Samantha.

- I will put kettle, they will catch cold without hot tea. - Said Veronica, in her eyes were tears. When she walked to the kitchen she felt that needs more than anything now to feel hands of her husband on her shoulders. Maybe everything is not such bad and she will convince him to have other ring on wedding's five years anniversary with new ceremony. Veronica took her coat and opened door from kitchen, John waited on the other side of the road, because of Larry's taxi. It was everything what she needs now.

Nicky and Larry kissed in the snow, Samantha understood that this wasn't such easy for Veronica after all.

As proper hostess Samantha wanted to call them in the house, but received message on the phone. "What are your plans for Christmas? Without hugs and kisses. Your ex-boss". "Any ideas?" Answered Samantha and walked to the door, they should return under roof it is necessary

for their health, Veronica was right. Samantha heard how closed door at her kitchen, Mrs Welling made right decision.

- Come inside, you will catch cold. - Said Samantha to again in love couple.

Something gave her clue, that Nicky won't spend this night under this house roof. As suggestion she could propose cozy little hotel, not far away from here, where she stayed few weeks till repair of her house finished.

The end.

November 2017, November 2018.

