CONTINUED:

JOSH
(With distaste.)
Marco?

MARY
Yeah, Marco. She met him her first week there and they’ve been inseparable since.

JOSH
(Affected.)
Met him? How’d she just meet him?

MARY
(Eyebrow raised.)
Ummmm... Well, she was in one of her art classes— one of the many- and he was one of the models. Nude models. He introduced himself afterwards and since then, they’ve been-

JOSH
(Brooding.)
Inseparable.

MARY
Yeah, inseparable... Like I said...
(She stares for a moment.)
Is something wrong?

What?

JOSH

MARY
Are you OK? You seem like-

What? I’m fine.

JOSH

MARY
Really? Because you don’t seem fine. A minute ago, you were all-
(Imitating him.)
"That’s so interesting" and now you’re all "who in the hell is this dude taking my place?"

JOSH
No?

MARY
I mean, I’m no psychologist or whatever, but-

JOSH
No, I’m fine. This is just- I know what it is. This is just my face. I’ve been told that my "default face" looks a little sad or depressed, but really I’m perfectly fine.

(continued)
CONTINUED:

Perfectly?

MARY

Perfectly.

JOSH

Beat.

MARY

And you’re not lying at all? Maybe even the tiniest little bit?

JOSH

Nope.

MARY

So me talking about Jane didn’t bring up any weird, possibly uncomfortable, feelings?

JOSH

Not at all.

MARY

And you’re sure about that?

JOSH

Yeah, I’m sure.

MARY

So, if I were to tell you some of the things that Jane has told me about Mr. Marco George, you’d be perfectly fine with it?

JOSH

Totally.

MARY

So the fact that she thinks he’s a god among men doesn’t faze you?

JOSH

(Lying.)

No.

MARY

Or that she just loves to rub her hands over his rock hard abs?

JOSH

(Defensive.)

A: There’s no way she’d ever say that and B: No, it doesn’t bother me.

(CONTINUED)
MARY
Or that she thinks he's the most generous lover she's ever been with?

JOSH
(Lying.)
No. Not a bit.

MARY
What about how she says he has the biggest-

JOSH
(Angry.)
Alright, alright! I get it!

MARY
Heart. He has the biggest heart, Josh.

JOSH
(Finally snapping at her.)
Well, then I guess she made the right decision, didn't she?!

Beat.
I'm sorry... That wasn't- that's my whole messed up situation and... You didn't deserve that.

Beat.

MARY
You didn't either. I just... I don't like it when people lie to me. And you were lying.

JOSH
No, I wasn't.

MARY
No?

JOSH
No.

MARY
Then what were you doing?

Beat.

JOSH
(Honestly.)
Saying something I hoped would be true as I said it...

Beat.

(Continued)
MARY
(Simply.)
I can get behind that. You’re not over her yet. That’s OK.

But I wanna be.

But you aren’t.

But I wanna be.

But you aren’t.

Beat.

JOSH
(Accepting.)
Yeah. But I’m not.

Beat.

MARY
That’s OK, Josh. We all have to start somewhere.

Beat.

Should we order something to eat?

That’d... be nice.

SCENE 4: HOWLING

tick tick time passes.

Cafe sounds, footsteps on, noise of clinking plates as he sets down bus tub. Wiping sound as he cleans the table. 

MIRANDA

Oh, thanks. Thank you.

JACK

MIRANDA

Of course.
(Making conversation.)
You’re the girl from this morning, aren’t you?

Yeah. You helped me hang the-

The banner- yeah. Thought that was you.

Yeah, I figured I should try and help you with something.

Well, it looks like we’re even, then.

Beat.

( Looks around a bit. )
It’s pretty busy today, right?

This? Oh, god no. This is nothing. You should see this place around Halloween.

What happens around Halloween?

( Mysterious. )
You sure you wanna know? Because once you know, you can never un-know. And I don’t wanna be the guy who scared you away.

I think I can take it.

Alright... So this is the Full Moon Cafe, right?

( Joking. )
I’m thinkin’ that’s about right, yeah.

Right, well, around Halloween we have this ridiculous deal where if you- a guest- come in and buy two Half Moon Cupcakes at half price to make a full moon- and a "Howler" Cappuccino- extremely creative, I know- that we all have to climb up on the nearest table or booth and howl at the moon. (Sees her reaction.) Yeah. And while we do that, we have to do this awful, awful werewolf dance that Jordan came up with. I mean, most of the (MORE)
traffic is just teenagers trying to make our lives miserable, but the place is non-stop packed every day till close.

Beat.

MIRANDA
I can't imagine anything worse than that thing you just described.

JACK
(Smiling.)
Eh, it's not as bad as it sounds. I mean, you do get a pretty great workout without having to go to the gym, so that's a plus.

(Chuckles.)
But, no- um- this really doesn't count as busy. It's just the lonely crowd blessing us with their presence.

The what?

JACK
(Caught off guard.)
Oh- uh- the lonely crowd? There's this speed dating thing going on. This is the first weekend we're doing it. It's gonna go from eleven to two every Saturday.

Oh, that's neat.

MIRANDA

JACK
(Smiling, unbelieving.)
You didn't- you mean you didn't know about it?

Beat.

MIRANDA
No... Should I?

JACK
(Trying not to laugh.)
It's literally on that banner we hung up this morning. And Jordan had this whole big spiel about it earlier. You didn't-?

MIRANDA
Oh, my god. That is the- I feel like such an idiot.

No, don't-
MIRANDA
I’m sorry, it’s just- I get all in my head and don’t tend to notice things like that. Especially in new situations like this. Cuz it’s my first Saturday here, you know? I guess I should’ve wandered why I had to hang up a banner in the first place.

They both chuckle.

JACK
Your first Saturday, huh? So, you’re, like, new.

MIRANDA
I’m sorry?

JACK
I said, "you’re new?" New here. I mean, I’ve never seen you before this morning, so-

MIRANDA
Oh, yeah. Yeah, I’m new. Started last month.

JACK
So not really new new, I guess.

MIRANDA
No, new works. I’m new enough. I only work a few days a week, so I’ve probably only worked a little more than a week’s worth of days. I mean, if you really think about it.

JACK
(Teasing.)
Oh. That makes... sense?

MIRANDA
Well, it made sense to me.

JACK
No, it made sense to me, too. I’m just messing with you.

Jack! Order 216 up!

JORDAN O.S.

JACK
Oh- I guess I should go get that. Thanks again for the help.

Yeah, you too.

MIRANDA
Beat.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JACK

(Taking a chance.)
Look, do you think you might want to-

JORDAN O.S.

Jack!

JACK

Alright, Jordan, I'm coming!
(Smiles at MIRANDA.)
Give her a little power and she goes crazy with it.
(Chuckles.)
I'll see you later.

Bus tube noises

MIRANDA

Yeah, see you.

SCENE 5: LEARNING

Tick tick time passes.

Cafe noises. Footsteps, two cups clink, and sound of them being set on the table.

MIRANDA

Alright, here are your drinks, lady and gentleman. Is there anything else I can do for you guys?

I think we're fine, but thank you.

JEFF

Yeah, we're golden.

MIRANDA

Alright, well, my name's Miranda. If you guys need me, I'll be right over there.

A loud buzzer is heard.
Oops, I'll let you do your thing. Just yell, scream, throw a fork or something if you need me and I'll come running, OK?

Thank you.

MADISON

Of course! You two have a good time!

(FOOTSTEPS)
CONTINUED:

JEFF

(Calling after her.)

Thanks!

Footsteps fade out.

She is really nice.

Jeff, by the way.

MADISON

Oh, Madison.

And right? She’s great!

JEFF

Yeah, she’s definitely getting a great tip.

Wait, what?

MADISON

Did I-? I just said that she was gonna get a good-

JEFF

No, sorry, I know what you said. I just didn’t- I didn’t know we were supposed to tip her. Them. I haven’t tipped anyone all day.

JEFF

Oh. Well, I mean they are serving us, I guess. So... Even if it is for a short time, they’re giving their day to us.

MADISON

Yeah, I just didn’t think- I don’t want you to think that I don’t support them or- I just- I never really thought about it.

JEFF

(Understanding.)

That’s OK. You live, you learn. I’m sure other people have tipped. I used to wait tables, so I tip and I try to tip more than you’re supposed to, so it might even out or something.

MADISON

(Obviously worried.)

Oh. OK.

(Quickly changing the subject.)

So, is this your first time?

JEFF

No, I’ve gone a few times before now- unsuccessfully, I guess. I mean, I’ve never here, but at the Blazay Cafe. What about you? Your first time?
MADISON

(Distracted.)
No, same as you. I don’t really make a habit of it. I just thought I’d come out because... I don’t know, actually. It’s my first time here, though. I guess we all have that in common.

MADISON chuckles nervously and looks around. JEFF notices.

JEFF

Are you OK?

MADISON

(Flustered.)
What? Oh, no. I mean, yeah. I’m fine. I just... OK, so I don’t like feeling guilty- actually I hate it- and this whole tipping thing makes me feel really guilty.

Beat.

JEFF

Oh, well, you want to leave them a note?

A note?

MADISON

JEFF

Yeah. You can leave ’em a note with some money in it. I mean, if you want. I’m not- you don’t have to. It’s just an idea. My mom used to do that.

Really?

Yeah.

MADISON

She’d just leave people notes?

JEFF

Yeah, like if we’d see a waiter or waitress get harassed or- like- a pregnant waitress. Or just someone across the restaurant who looked like they were having an off day, she’d leave them a nice little note or a few extra dollars on top of the tip. Or both

MADISON

Wow. What’d the note say?

(Continued)
JEFF
(Fondly.)
I don't know, actually. She wouldn't tell me. I always asked, but she said "it'd ruin the surprise."
(Beat.)
But I'm not saying that you have to do that or anything.
MADISON
No, you're fine. That's fine. I didn't think...
That's really beautiful.
What?
MADISON
What your mother did. That's really an awesome thing.
JEFF
Oh, yeah. I guess it was.
You don't think it was?
MADISON
No, I do! I really do.
You should cherish that kind of thing.
JEFF
Yeah- uh- I agree.
MADISON
(Stern.)
Because there are people who don't have that kind of thing, you know?
JEFF
I mean, yeah. Maybe. But everyone has parents.
MADISON
It's just that not everyone knew theirs. I really wish I had that, to be honest.
JEFF
What?
MADISON
I mean, you pick. The memory, the mom. Either, really.
Beat.

(Continued)
JEFF
Well, I’m sure your mom had awesome stuff that she did.

Beat.

MADISON
Yeah, you’re right. I’m sure she did. I just wouldn’t know about it.

Beat.

What do you mean?

JEFF
I just wouldn’t know. I didn’t know her. I was given up when I was a baby, so I have no memories of anything.

Oh. Wow.

MADISON
Which makes me kind of hate people like you. Because you had all of the things that I didn’t.

JEFF
(Slightly uncomfortable.) Oh. Yeah. I mean, that makes sense.

Yeah...

(MADISON)
If it’s any consolation, I don’t hate you. Well, not a lot, at least. The two chuckle.

JEFF
Well, that’s good to know.

Yeah.

MADISON
(Beat.) Will you- will you tell me about your mom?

JEFF
What?

MADISON
Not, like- oh, god I must sound like a freak. Ah. um- not like everything about her. It’s just the whole not having a

(MORE)
MADISON (cont’d)
mom thing. I like to ask people about theirs to kind of... I don’t know...

JEFF
To make memories of your own, even if they aren’t real?
Beat.

um- yeah, actually... How-?

MADISON
I’m an only child. Always wanted a brother.
Sorry. I know it’s not the same, but-

JEFF
No, no, you’re fine. (Long beat.)
So does this mean you will-?

MADISON
Oh! Yeah. Yeah, sure.

JEFF
I mean, I don’t wanna take up too much of our time. If you wanna talk about other things-

MADISON
No, we can totally- I mean, that girl said we should tell our stories, right?

JEFF
Yeah, I guess she did.

MADISON
What kind of thing would you like to know?

JEFF
I’m not sure-

MADISON
Just so you know, though, my memories are gonna probably be a little more gold plated than usual because she’s actually- uh- not with us anymore.

JEFF
Oh, my god.

MADISON
Yeah...

(CONTINUED)
MADISON

How long?

JEFF
She’s been gone for about two years.

MADISON
I’m sorry to hear that.

JEFF
No, no. There’s no need to be sorry. It’s not like- I mean, I miss her but I never really feel sad when I think about her, so that’s a good thing.

(Beat.)
I’m sorry, maybe this isn’t polite date conversation. I’m kind of just realizing that-

MADISON
No, no, no. You’re fine. I asked about it-

JEFF
Yeah, but then I shouldn’t have... I’m sorry, I just-

MADISON
How about your favorite memory with her? Please?

Beat.

JEFF
OK, yeah. Um- well, let’s see... There was this one year during Christmas- we were never Christians, but we did celebrate Christmas for some reason- either way, my mom had just lost dad. Well, we both had, but she was the only one who really had to face it, you know? I was really young and didn’t get what that meant- losing him- past, like, daddy isn’t gonna be coming home anymore. You know. That stuff that they tell kids to soften the blow. The stuff you won’t really get for years until it happens again and you can really understand it for what it is-

MADISON
And when you do finally understand it, it sucks...

JEFF
Yeah.

(Beat.)
But I don’t get bummered out about it because I know that he had a good life. He and my mom both did. They went everywhere and wherever they went, they went together. They’d gotten to- I think- eight different countries before they even had me. And they- uh- I think they were around twenty-six- at least my mom was- when she had me. Dad would’ve been- oh god, um, twenty-eight or so? I know he was a little older.
(Has a funny thought.)
But my mom would always tell people at dinner parties and birthday parties that dad was younger because she liked the thought of being a cougar.
(Chuckles.)
And he’d always just stand there and give her this fake angry look- that was really half a smile- and she would wink at him...
(Beat.)
They had good lives.
(Beat.)
And... I have been sharing far too much. Please, let’s talk about you for a minute so I don’t feel like a complete jerk..

MADISON
No, no, you didn’t even get to the memory!

Beat.

JEFF
(Wary.)
Are you sure you want me to-?

I promise. It’s OK.

MADISON

OK, well... One Christmas, right after we’d lost dad- like I said. Mom...
(What he’s about to say sets in.)
She- I’ll never forget this for as long as I live- but she signed all of my presents as if they were from dad. And, I don’t know, it just- I woke up early, ran downstairs and mom had made breakfast- she hated cooking so it was probably Pop-tarts or something- and I had to eat every bite before I could start opening this small mountain of presents... all from my dad.
(Beat.)
And I just remember feeling so great thinking, even if for a second, that he’s somewhere watching over me or thinking about even something as trivial as what I wanted for Christmas. It’s stupid, but it helped. It helps.

MADISON
That’s definitely not stupid, Jeff.

Beat.

JEFF
She never stopped doing it, either.
MADISON

Doing what?

JEFF

Signing my presents from dad. She said that dad’s day was Christmas and that the rest of the year was her time to show me that she loves me. And now that she’s gone, my aunt and uncle always sign everything they get me from mom and dad.

(Beat)

It’s kind of like our-

MADISON begins to cry.

Oh, my god. What’s- I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to-

MADISON

No, no, I’m sorry, it’s just-

JEFF

I didn’t think that- you asked me about her and I didn’t think that you’d cry-

Seriously, you’re fine.

MADISON wipes the tears from her face.

Or maybe not. Maybe I do hate you.

Sniffles and wipes more tears away.

God, I’m a mess...

Beat.

JEFF

(Walking on egg shells.)

I’m really sorry... I promise I didn’t mean to upset you or...

MADISON stares at JEFF for a moment, making a decision.

MADISON

You know that cliched plot point in all of those Hollywood movies and kid’s books? The whole baby dropped on the doorstep of some orphanage thing?

JEFF

Like Harry Potter?

MADISON

Yeah. That was me.

(Sees his reaction.)

Except in my case it didn’t- you know- lead to something monumental happening. No amazing, life changing moment or-

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
superpowers or... I read a lot when I was a kid. And I noticed the orphan was always the special one. The one that was down on their luck, but was going to bounce back better than ever. But I just never really got that moment, you know? I never found that one special thing like they always do. In the movies and books and... It just made me a lonely kid who wished for a real family but never got one.

Beat.

So you grew up-?

At St. Benedict's Orphanage. That's where they left me.

Your parents.

Yeah.

Do you know who they are?

Like I said: "I don't have parents." I mean, I was raised by an old couple- they had to stick me somewhere, I guess. Stayed there for a while, but they never- I didn't really feel like a daughter. More like a ghost they didn't mind staying with them. They were never very enthusiastic. They just asked that I get out of the way.

I'm sorry I brought it up.

Like I said: "I don't have parents." I mean, I was raised by an old couple- they had to stick me somewhere, I guess. Stayed there for a while, but they never- I didn't really feel like a daughter. More like a ghost they didn't mind staying with them. They were never very enthusiastic. They just asked that I get out of the way.

I'm sorry I brought it up.

I asked about things. I wanted to hear, so you shouldn't feel bad about it.

Yeah?

Yeah. And, by the way, thanks. I like hearing stories. It makes me feel like I have that person somewhere watching me and caring about something stupid like what I want for Christmas.

And, no, I don't hate you. I just- When I was younger, and these days too I guess, I just always imagined people like...
you who were so lucky to have two parents who loved you so much that they... they *raised* you. That’s such a big thing, you know? They loved you so much that they gave you the rest of their lives. They said, "I’m going to take you in, raise you, and I’m always gonna be there when you need me. I’ll be there to tell you things are OK, to make them OK when they aren’t and..." I don’t know. I just always imagined that people like you just... wasted it, you know? They don’t understand what they have or why it’s such a great thing. They take it for granted. But you... It doesn’t seem like you’re like that, so no. I don’t hate you.

Beat.

JEFF
Well, thank you. For whatever it’s worth.

For what?

MADISON

For not hating me.

Beat.

We... have shared way too much with each other to just say goodbye after this. Would you like to get out of here? I don’t know about you, but I’m pretty sure I don’t wanna meet anyone else...

MADISON
Yeah. Yeah, that’d be nice.

The two get up and begin to leave.

Wait, let me just... *purse ruffling*

Sound of purse ruffling.

JEFF
What are you doing?

MADISON
I’m gonna leave some money. And a note.

Sound of note writing.

JEFF
I think I like that idea.

MADISON
I thought you might.

(Continued)
JEFF
What’s it gonna say?

note writing ends. Sound of placing it on table?

MADISON
(Sly smile.)
I can’t tell you that. It’d ruin the surprise.

JEFF
(Smiles.)
I guess that’s true.

OK, all done.

JEFF
Shall we?

MADISON
I think we shall. **Cue 58: Buzzer**

They exit.

A loud buzzer is heard.

MIRANDA
What’s this...? **Cue 58: Cafe**

**SCENE 6: READING**

Tick tick time passes.

Cafe sounds.

JACK
Finally... A moment of rest... **Cue 60: Page Turns**


JORDAN
Hey, Jack do you think you can go ahead and clean up table 12?

JACK
Oh- uh- I was actually- I’m on lunch so-

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JORDAN
Oh, right. That makes sense as to why you’re sitting down. Right! Sorry. Enjoy your book.

Thanks...?

JACK

MIRANDA
Can I sit here?

Ruffling as he sits up.

JACK
Of course, yeah. Go ahead.

Thanks.

MIRANDA
Sound of sitting then beat as they eat/read.

What are you reading, there?

JACK
Oh- uh- nothing. Just the fourth book in this new fantasy series.

MIRANDA
I love fantasy! Which series?

JACK
Salem’s Winter? You’ve probably never heard of it, I think it just came out in the U.S. a few months ago.

MIRANDA
Oh, my god! I love those books! Marianna Stomfein is my favorite writer of all time! No joke.

(Beat.)
You’re on the fourth one? What is that- The Apprentice’s Master?

JACK
Yeah! Oh, my god! You’re, like, the coolest girl on the face of the earth right now! I’ve never even met a guy who likes these books, let alone a girl.

Beat.

MIRANDA
(Angry.)
What? What is that supposed to mean? Are you saying that girls can’t have good taste? Really?
(Wide eyed.)
Oh, I didn’t- I’m sorry, I really didn’t mean to say that you- that girls couldn’t- girls can totally have good taste!

MIRANDA begins laughing. Slowly, JACK realizes she’s been messing with him.

And... you just totally had me going.

I really did.

MIRANDA

Touche, touche.

JACK

I mean, you do sort of deserve it.

JACK

And why’s that?

MIRANDA

I asked some people about the Full Moon Cafe’s Halloween tradition.

Ooh, busted...

JACK

Yeah, nice try, though. I mean, I will admit: I almost believed you.

JACK

No, you totally believed me!

They both laugh.

MIRANDA

I thought you said there wasn’t going to be any hazing?

JACK

Hey, I said from them. I never made any promises about myself.

MIRANDA

But, I thought you said you had to be smart to haze someone?

JACK

Ouch. Well, at least I’m smart enough to like the same books as you, right? I’ve got that going for me.

(CONTINUED)
MIRANDA
Yeah, I guess I’ll give you that.
(Beat.)
You know, it’s kind of nice to meet someone else who likes something remotely similar to me.

JACK
Is that not a normal occurrence?

MIRANDA
Not here, at least. I kinda grew up with six older brothers—
(Sees JACK’s reaction.)
Yeah, right? And they’re all, like, jocks or whatever. Well, all except James who we’re pretty sure can hack into the CIA’s database at this point. But, yeah, all of the books that they read were the books that I inherited and then read... So we all kind of ended up liking similar things. And now I’m in a new place and- I don’t know- It’s just kinda comforting to see someone reading something familiar. Reminds me of home.

JACK
(Smiles.)
That makes sense.

Beat.

MIRANDA
(Reading into his smile.)
Did I just make it weird?

No, not at all.

MIRANDA
OK, good.

The two sit in silence for a moment.

So, do you have any brothers or sisters?

JACK
I do. Well, just the one sister, but yeah. She’s a lot younger.

MADISON
Oh?

JACK
Uhuh- and she’s just now in that phase where she’s getting into boys, so we don’t really have that much in common at all.

(CONTINUED)
MIRANDA
Ah, yes. The Boy Craze Phase.

JACK
Yeah, she's actually been doing this thing where she'll sit in the front yard, behind a tree, and whenever one of the neighborhood boys passes our house, she'll jump out and start chasing 'em. She sometimes even makes me play outside with her so, and I quote, "they'll think I'm hanging out with older and cooler boys."
(He chuckles.)
I don't know why, but she seems to think I'm cool.

MIRANDA
That's adorable.
(Catching herself.)
Your sister. Uh- she sounds adorable.

JACK
She is when she's not being a handful. I've never see someone over-think the world as much as her. Every little thing, she just has to figure it out.

MIRANDA
I think that's just a girl thing. That's why I liked having brothers. Growing up they were curious, but most of the time they were just content with running around in the backyard acting like idiots while I read. And that was OK, because they weren't worried about seeming cool or suave. You know? I mean, now they are, but back then they were just happy.

JACK
Happy is good.

MIRANDA
Yeah, it is.

Beat.

JACK
So, how are you liking things here?

MIRANDA
I like it a lot, actually. It's a lot different than other jobs I've had. I like not having to worry about acting like a robot around the customers.

JACK
Guests.

MIRANDA
What?

(CONTINUED)
JACK
You’ve gotta call ’em guests. They’re our "guests." If Jordan catches you calling ’em customers, she’ll have a fit.

MIRANDA
There you go, helping me out again.

JACK
Oh, you don’t need me to help you.
Don’t tell anyone I told you, but you’re actually pretty good at this. Most people around here are impressed.

MIRANDA
Yeah?

JACK
Yeah, definitely. I’ve actually never seen anyone pick it up so fast.

MIRANDA
What, cleaning tables? I feel like that’s gonna be a big part of my job description.

JACK
Well, yes it is. But no, I meant, like, all of it. Taking orders and everything. You’re really good with the "guests."
Unlike me.

MIRANDA
You don’t seem so bad.

JACK
I’m fine now, but you should have seen me when I first started. I was a train wreck. The only reason I’m any good at this point is that I’ve gotten to know everyone who comes in. It’s a lot of repeat customers, so-

MIRANDA
You mean, guests.

They both laugh.

JACK
You got me. I guess the student has surpassed the master.

MIRANDA
Well, I do try.

JACK
Beat.

MIRANDA
So, have you ever done this before now?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

MIRANDA

Done what?

JACK

Waitressing. Waitstaffing. Whatever the politically correct term is.

MIRANDA

Oh, no. Not before I started here. It’s nice though.

JACK

Yeah, apart from all the spontaneous werewolf attacks, it’s not so bad.

They laugh and stare at each other for a moment.

So, after work I was planning on going to Brady’s Bar downtown with some people from work. I don’t know when you get off, but if we get off around the same time, do you think you’d wanna tag along or something?

Beat. MIRANDA is caught by surprise.

Oh.

JACK

(Confused.)

Oh?

MIRANDA

I’m sorry, I didn’t think- um- I have to- I have to meet my boyfriend later, so-

JACK

Oh, OK, that’s fine. I didn’t know. You just seemed cool and I thought I’d-

MIRANDA

No, yeah. Thank you. Really. I just-

JACK

Sure. Yeah, I get it.

Awkwardly long beat.

JACK AND MIRANDA

I should just go. Chair squeaking

Sounds of chairs squeaking as they stand up. Beat.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

I’ll just go this way.

JACK

OK, yeah.

MIRANDA

Right.

JACK

Tick tick tick. time passes.

SCENE 7: PRESENTING

How’s it going, everyone? Are you all making some life-long connections, or what?

JORDAN

Well, you’re all looking pretty happy, so that must be a good sign.

JORDAN looks at a specific man in the audience.

What about you, sir? You having a good time? Happy to be here?

(Beat.)

Is that a yes, or- I can’t really tell. You’re not really moving your head or motioning in any way, so I can’t really... OK, then.

JORDAN turns to a specific woman in the audience.

How about you, ma’am? Are you enjoying yourself?

(Beat.)

Maybe? Kinda? Anything? Anything at all?

Silence.

I’ll take your silence as a yes! Awesome! Two satisfied guests and it’s not even One O’clock!

(Beat.)

Anyhoo, I just came out to let you all know that, sadly, we’re gonna have to take a quick break from all the fun you’ve undoubtedly been having. But! We do have some snacks laid out on a table in the back for you in the mean time! Right back there, behind the gentleman in the black. Back there, we have some of our famous Half Moon Cupcakes, Quarter Moon Cookies, and for the first time ever- this is really exciting- we’re proudly presenting a brand new,
extremely tasty addition to the Full Moon Cafe’s menu: "Howler" Punch!
"What flavor is it," you ask? "I don’t know," I say! "It’s a mystery!"

(Beat.)
It’s not really a mystery, by the way. It’s strawberry and banana. Just so you know. I have to tell you, because we had a mystery punch last year, but it turns out mysteries aren’t the best idea when the mystery ingredient is revealed to be not so mysteriously one of our guest’s biggest allergies... So, yeah...

(Beat.)
Right! Well, I’ll see you all in just a little bit. In the meantime, snack and mingle away! Unless you’re allergic to strawberries and bananas! Cuz if you are, we’re not gonna be held accountable if you puff up and die! Have fun!

Scattered applause.

Tick, tick, tick.

BLACKOUT

INTERMISSION

Cue 70: Clock Ticking

Cue 71: Intermission Music
ACT 2:

SCENE 1: REMEMBERING

Tick tick tick.

Cafe noises.

JORDAN

And we're back ladies and gentlemen! Let's have a round of applause for that awesome "Howler" Punch! Pretty tasty if I do say so myself! And I do! [Cue 167: Scattered applause]

Scattered applause.

Gosh, just look at you. All of you... So happy, so excited, so hungry for love, ready to fight for it, go the whole nine yards... It's a beautiful thing, it really is...

(Beat.)

You know, I remember my first speed date. For my birthday one year, my step-mom took me to this fortune teller for a free reading and the creepy old lady behind the crystal ball told me that I needed to try new things in my life. Which is, like- duh! Right? Everyone should always try new things! But it got me thinking, you know, maybe I should do something new. Something exciting. So, I was walking down the street one day and I see this flier for a speed dating event in the window of none-other-than The Blazay Cafe. And the rest is history, folks.

(Beat. Oddly thoughtful.)

I've met three ex-husbands, speed dating, and I wouldn't change a thing. You know, they might be gone, but the time I spent with them speed dating, otherwise, and the love we shared is worth all the heartbreak they definitely, definitely, definitely did cause... So, don't waste this opportunity. Learn from the experiences you have today. But most importantly... Live.

JORDAN begins clapping.

(Aggressively excited.)

Alright! Let's do this! Gettin' dates, takin' names! Woo!

JORDAN exits, still clapping.

BLACKOUT
SCENE 2: FALLING

Tick tick tick. A loud buzzer is heard.

*Cafe noises. Phone buttons being pushed.*

MISSY

How's it going over there?

JARED

(Distracted.)

It's OK. Just emailing some people for work.

MISSY

I was just wondering what you were doing on your phone.

You've been "emailing" all morning...

JARED

Yeah, it's just that Jeremy decided that today he was gonna completely mess up the entire system that we've been running since day one and-

(Realizes something.)

I'm really sorry. I'm being rude, aren't I?

MISSY

I wasn't saying that-

JARED

You don't have to. I'm sorry. I just get all wrapped up in things and-

Jared, you're fine.

MISSY

How about this? *Phone Off*

Phone turn off music.

It's off. Work's all done.

Beat.

MISSY

(Hint of a smile.)

You didn't have to do that.

JARED

'Course I didn't. I wanted to.
MISSY
I was just asking. If you have stuff to do for work, don’t let me-

JARED
Missy, it’s fine. We came to lunch together, so we’re gonna have lunch together.

Beat.
Speaking of being together and awesome segues, I’ve gotta go into work pretty early in the morning and your place is a little closer than mine. You think I could just stay with you tonight?

MISSY
(surprised.)
Of course you can.
(Beat.)
You know, you don’t have to-

JARED
(Sigh)
I keep asking, don’t I?

MISSY
You’ve gotta get used to calling it home, sometime.

JARED
Yeah, it’s just- it’s different. I’m sorry, I don’t know what my problem is. Of course it’s home. OK, I officially un-ask to spend the night.

MISSY
(Smiling.)
Well, I officially un-accept your offer. So, when are we moving your stuff in, again?

JARED
I’m not sure. Maybe next Tuesday?

MISSY
Next Tuesday?

JARED
Yeah, is something wrong?

MISSY
No. I mean, Tuesday is completely fine. It’s just that you said the same thing last week.

JARED
OK, then. We’ll do it this Tuesday.
MISSY
(Unimpressed.)
It's Saturday.

JARED
(Uncomfortable.)
Well, then I guess we'll do it next Tuesday.

Beat.

MISSY

It's weird, huh?

What's that?

JARED

MISSY
All the people here. This speed dating thing.

JARED
Yeah, I guess so. More sad than anything.

MISSY
Yeah. Maybe.  
(Beat.)
So, what are our plans for the day?

JARED
(More comfortable.)
Oh- uh- just dinner with Martha and Joe.

MISSY
What time?

JARED

Eight-ish.

MISSY

Eight-Ish?

JARED

Yeah.

MISSY

Why eight-ish?

JARED
I don't know, actually. I think it has something to do with a doctor appointment or something. Joe said something about it last Saturday as we were leaving.
CONTINUED:

Hmmm. OK.

MISSY

Beat.

JARED

Everything OK over there?

Beat.

MISSY

Yeah. I think so.

JARED

Think so?

MISSY

Yeah, I just-

JARED

Just think so?

MISSY

It's just that... Joe and Martha... We go over there every Saturday.

JARED

Yeah?

JARED

Every Saturday night, without fail, we go over at eight o'clock, have dinner, joke around, and then come home.

Beat.

MISSY

Yeah?

JARED

(Beat.)

Sorry, I don't know what you're trying to say.

MISSY

I was just thinking that maybe tonight... we don't do that.

JARED

What do you mean?

MISSY

I mean... Let's do something different. Be spontaneous.

JARED

Spontaneous?

(_CONTINUED)
MISSY
Yeah. Just mix it up a bit.
Beat.

JARED
By doing what?
Beat.

MISSY
Well, how about this? The thing they're doing here.
Beat.

What?

MISSY
I don't know, Jared... THIS.
MISSY points to the banner in the background.

JARED
(Getting angry.)
What?

MISSY
Do you really not get it-?

JARED
(Angry.)
No, I get it, Missy, I just don’t get what happened that would ever make you suggest it.

MISSY
Well, don’t get mad. I was just throwing out a possibility.

JARED
You just asked if you could go on dates with other men-

MISSY
No, I didn’t. I asked if we could do something different together. Not as a serious thing! Just- This isn't about meeting someone else. Really, it isn't. Don’t try to twist it like that, Jared.

JARED
Twist it? What are you talking about? How am I twisting this? You just asked-

(continues)
MISSY

Beat.

JARED
Missy, what the hell?

MISSY
What?

Beat.

JARED
Are you not happy? Is that it?

MISSY
No, that’s not what I’m saying-

JARED
Well, it sort of seems like it-

MISSY
Stop it, OK? That’s not what it is. I just-

JARED
Is it Joe? Or Martha? I thought you liked them-

MISSY
Of course I like Joe and Martha. I love Joe and Martha!

JARED
Then what-

MISSY
It’s just that we do the same things every Saturday.

JARED
Yeah, because it’s fun! At least to me, it’s fun.

MISSY
I agree. I just want to try something new.

Beat.

JARED
(Officially angry.)
Fine, we don’t have to go tonight if you don’t want to.

MISSY
It’s not just that I don’t wanna go.
Kinda sounds like it.

JARED

Beat.

MISSY

Why do you want to go so badly?

JARED

It's like tradition. You know? It's like our tradition.

MISSY

You've never cared about traditions, before.

JARED

Well, maybe now I do. I don't know, Missy.

(Long beat.)

I'm not trying to be difficult. It's just that I like the routine of Joe and Martha's. It gives me something to look at and think that things are going the right way... You know?

Beat.

MISSY

No, I get it. It's just...

(Beat.)

Is that a "no," then?

A "no" for what?

JARED

Speed dating.

MISSY

Jesus, Missy!

(Beat. Annoyed.)

You know what? No. It's not a no. It's an "I'd rather not." It's an "It really hurts me that you really want to do that" and an "I don't understand what it would prove even if we did."

Beat.

MISSY

But would you? If I asked you to?

Beat.

JARED

Is this some kind of joke or relationship test or something?
MISSY
No, it's just a "would you?"
(Beat.)
Would you go if I asked you to?

JARED
(Angry.)
Missy, this is so- it's not OK. No, I wouldn't do it if you asked. I have no idea of what's happened in the last five minutes that has made you completely...

MISSY
What? Completely what?

JARED
Nothing.

MISSY
No, what? Completely what, Jared? Completely bored?

JARED
How would going out with some random stranger change any of that?!

MISSY
Because, Jared, it's something new! Because, this is what happened with my parents. They did the same old stuff until ten-years-in when they finally decided to do something new and they got a divorce.
(Realizing.)
The same old stuff won't always be enough.

JARED
The same old stuff is good, though.

MISSY
But it's the same and it's old. Maybe it'll be good for a few more days or months or years, but then we're both gonna need something more.

JARED
Then why do we have to worry about it now? Why not then?

MISSY
You act like dinner with Joe and Martha is everything! Like it's better than something that'll actually get your heart pumping fast for once-

JARED
It's familiar and it's sentimental! Everyone needs that!

(CONTINUED)
MISSY
But this is the real world, Jared! The real world isn’t all
familiarity and sentiment! People do different things and
that’s how the world turns.

JARED
We’re not talking about the real world, though, Missy!
Friends aren’t the real world! That’s the whole point of
fri-

MISSY
Do you not want to move in with me?
Beat.

What?

MISSY
Do you not want to move in?
Beat.

I don’t know why you’d-

MISSY
Because if I’m being honest it seems like you don’t and I
don’t know why.
I mean, two months ago, in this cafe, I sat in front of you
and I took a chance and I asked you. And then all you did
was say OK. And when I ask you when we’re making the big
move, it’s always next week. It’s never our place, our room,
our bed, or our lives. It’s always our separate lives.
Do you not want to move in?
(Beat.)
I don’t want us to be that couple that doesn’t talk about
the important stuff and then, years later, they split up
because they finally crack and it blows up in everyone’s
face.

Beat.

JARED
It’s not that I don’t want to move in, I just...
(He makes a decision.)
OK, no, it is that. Alright? I don’t want to move in. You
asked me to and immediately I got this bad feeling- this
feeling like things were gonna start closing in on me, but I
told myself I was just being stupid and I said OK. And then
everything did start closing in on me. I felt stuck... I
feel stuck.
CONTINUED: 49.

MISSY
Why didn’t you just tell me?

JARED
Because what the hell else am I supposed to say? "No? Sorry, I know we’ve been dating for three and a half years, but I’m completely uncomfortable with the thought of living with you?"

Beat.

MISSY
You’re supposed to be honest with me, Jared. That’s what you do in relationships. You have to be honest so we can work through things.

JARED
Well, I’m sorry. That’s a whole lot easier to say than it is to do. Why do you think I spend so much time working?
(Beat.)
We share everything but an apartment, Missy. Everything. You think I can just tell you that I have no intentions of ever living with you?

Beat.

MISSY
Well, it looks like you just did. I’m leaving.

Chair squeaks and footsteps off.

MISSY
Missy, wait! Come on, we can talk about this- I’m sorry, I just- Missy!

SCENE 3: AVOIDING

Tick tick tick.

There is still food and drinks on the table from the last "guest."

JORDAN O.S.

Jack, remember table 12!

JACK O.S.

Right, sorry.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JACK
Clean table 12, Jack... You gotta clean table eight, don’t forget table friggin’ eight...

MIRANDA
Oh, hey. Do you need any- um- you need some help?

JACK
Oh, no. I think I’ve got it.

Sure.

MIRANDA
But thanks, anyway.

JACK
Yeah. Table wipe
Cleanin’ sounds continue. Footsteps

MIRANDA
Clock ticking

JACOB
You’re gonna love the root beer here, by the way. You got the root beer, right?

MIKE
Yeah.

JACOB
I came here once last year for a bar mitzva and had some. They make it in the back and everything. It’s kind of ridiculous how good it is.

Beat.

MIKE
You’re Jewish?

JACOB
Oh, no. I didn’t know the kid, but there was free food and I was walkin’ by, so...

(Continued)
CONTINUED:

MIKE
Oh, sorry. I'm Mike.

JACOB
Well, it's nice to meet you, Mike.

Beat.

MIKE
You, too.

JACOB
This your first time? Speed dating?

MIKE
Oh. Yeah. It's a lot different than I expected.

JACOB
Yeah, I can understand that. As you've probably noticed, we don't exactly have enough daters of our persuasion to warrant our own separate event so we kind of get pushed off into the corner here. Not that I'm complaining or anything.

MIKE
It's a nice corner. I like it.

JACOB
Yeah.

MIKE takes a drink.

Ooh, that doesn't look like a good taste face.

MIKE
(Through a cough.)
That was... not root beer. I think he gave me the wrong drink.

JACOB
Oh no, that sucks. We'll have to get the waiter's attention. What'd he give you?

MIKE
I don't know, but whatever it is, it's horrible.

JACOB
Oh, you know what? Wait a second, that might be- JACOB takes a sip of his own drink.

God, that's good. Yeah, they switched us up. Sorry about that. Here ya go.
CONTINUED: 52.

They switch drinks. cups clink.

What was that?

MIKE

Well, don't tell anyone, but I asked the waiter to add a little Jack to mine. Brought a flask with just a little bit of Whiskey. To take the edge off and make these things a little less nerve wracking.

MIKE

It tasted awful.

JACOB

Well, of course it tasted awful. Drinking isn't about the taste. It's about the feeling.

Feeling?

MIKE

Yeah.

MIKE

What kind of feeling?

JACOB

I don't know, it's hard to explain. For me, it's sort of a- a what- a hazy knowledge? I don't know. It's, like, you don't really know what's gonna to happen, but you feel like you do so that makes everything seem OK. Which is wonderful in these situations. Speed dates. It makes everything less important and you get to be more in the moment, I guess. So, do you not drink?

MIKE

Not really, no.

JACOB stares.

JACOB

(Deadpan, joking.)

I can't even begin to understand how that's remotely possible. You just don't like it or have you never tried it?

MIKE

I guess I just never really felt the need. I mean, there were tons of times that I could've but I just- I don't know- I guess I just saw what it did to people and I just didn't-

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:  53.

College.

MIKE

College?

JACOB

You got a bad taste for it in college, right? Saw a bunch of "bros" running around with their shirts off, trying to score, etc, etc.

MIKE

Yeah, I guess that’s part of it. I mean, there was this whole episode when I was younger with my father. Things went crazy for a while and that definitely didn’t help matters, but—yeah. You’re right. I guess, I just got a bad taste for it and never started.

Interesting.

What?

JACOB

Nothing. I just think it’s interesting that you don’t. Drink. Cuz you look like someone who might.

Really?

JACOB

Yeah, I’d say so. Yeah.

MIKE

I don’t know whether you’re being rude or complimenting me.

JACOB

(Joking.)

How about we chalk it up to a little bit of both?

Beat.

MIKE

(Offended.)

OK?

JACOB

I’m kidding. It’s a compliment. I mean, you don’t look like me. I drink a lot. Probably too much if I’m being completely honest with myself— which I don’t like to be. You see, I find that ignorance is, as countless others have said before, bliss. It just makes life so much more—blissful. Yes, bliss makes life more blissful.

(Continued)
MIKE
You don’t have much of a filter, do you?

JACOB
I don’t think I’ve ever really given it much thought. I guess I don’t. Huh. Does that bother you?

MIKE
No. No, it’s interesting. I’ve never really met someone like you.

JACOB
Ooh, like me? Do tell.

MIKE
um- I don’t know. You just seem... in charge, somehow.

JACOB
Well, that’s always good to know.

JACOB takes a drink.

Alright, I’m going to ask you a question, Mike. And when I ask you this question I don’t want you to worry about my feelings or about being polite or any of that pseudo-truth basic human behavior crap. OK?

MIKE
Yeah, OK. Sure.

JACOB
Alright- and forgive me if this comes off a little childish, but I’ve just been in this situation before and this makes things a whole lot easier.

What is it?

Am I your type?

MIKE stiffens a bit.

Type of what?

JACOB
(Smiling.)
Oh, don’t give me that. You know.

MIKE
(Uncomfortable.)

No.

(CONTINUED)
JACOB
No, I'm not your type?

MIKE
No. No, I don't know what that means. I'm sorry.

JACOB
What I'm trying to ask, Michael, is whether or not I'm the type of man who you usually go for. You know- are you attracted to me?

MIKE
Oh. Well, I don't really-

JACOB
Because if not, just tell me. I can take it, I promise. Speed dates were made this way for a reason. It's better that we get these things out of the way quickly. After all, we only have a limited amount of time with each other. It seems a bit pointless to waste time on polite, "you look very nice"s and "Oh, me? I aspire to be this or that"s. I mean you do look very nice today and I do have aspirations, but what I'm saying is that I think you're attractive and nice and if you think I am too, then I think we should go on another one of these. Like, a real one with actual food or something.

MIKE
I'm really sorry, but I'm not... gay.

JACOB
(Joking.) Of course you aren't. Neither am I. I mean, what is gay after all?

MIKE
(Uncomfortable.) No, I mean it. I'm not. I'm sorry. I guess I should have told you before...

JACOB
You're serious?

MIKE
Yeah.

JACOB
What are you doing here, then?

MIKE
(Practiced. A bit too fast.) I'm here with- uh- I'm here with a friend.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Beat.

JACOB
(Unbelieving.)
A friend?

MIKE
Yeah, his name’s Martin.

JACOB
Martin?

MIKE
He just came out a few weeks ago and wanted to meet someone but didn’t want to come alone- which is completely understandable, you know? It’s such a big thing, coming out- a huge thing- and so I-

JACOB
(Unconvinced.)
So you promised you’d go with him for moral support or something like that?

MIKE
Uh- yeah. Something like that. And there were more men than women here so I said I’d go... This route. I’m really sorry.

JACOB
knows that MIKE is lying. He makes the decision to go easy on him.

JACOB
(Knowing. Kind.)
You’re a good guy, Mike. Progressive, some might say.

MIKE
Thanks.

JACOB
So, are you single?

MIKE
Oh. No, can’t say that I am.

JACOB
What’s her name?

MIKE
uh- Memphis.

JACOB
Memphis? Like the-?
Yeah, like the city.

MIKE

Well, I’ve never heard that one before.

JACOB

It is a bit unusual, I guess.

MIKE

No, I wouldn’t say unusual. More unique.

JACOB

(Beat.)

Well, either way, she’s a lucky lady.

MIKE

I like to think that I’m the lucky one.

JACOB

And he’s romantic, to boot. Wonderful. She gonna be jealous?

Who?

MIKE

Memphis, the lucky lady. I mean, you’re out on a hot date, it’s Saturday- albeit early on a Saturday, but still... I’d be jealous.

MIKE

Oh, no, I think that she understands.

(Beat.)

So... do you do this a lot?

This?

JACOB

Speed dating.

MIKE

Oh, no. Not at all. A few times a week at the most. Because, if you really think about it, Mike, you’ll see that these things- speed dates- are really just made for you guys and gals. You know, it’s more socially acceptable for a man and a woman to meet up on a Saturday morning and have a nice, polite date than two of- let’s say- MY type.

MIKE

If this doesn’t work for you, you know there are sites for meeting other people, right? Online? That sort of thing?
JACOB

Yeah... Online sites. Watering holes for men searching for a moment of something resembling passion. I've been there and I've done that, as my drinking habit will attest to, and I'm not looking for anymore of it.

MIKE

Oh... What are you looking for?

JACOB

I don't know. I guess you could say I'm searching for... a husband type of guy. You know? God, I meet so many queens out here, at bars, at parties... And don't get me wrong, alright? Queens are great. I love me a queen. It's just that, for once, I want a guy who wears a suit to work, who smokes a cigar every once in a while, who drinks scotch or whiskey or something. Know anyone like that? Maybe you could send 'em my way.

MIKE

Oh, I don't think-

JACOB

Maybe your friend Martin? The one you're here with?

MIKE

Oh, well-

JACOB

Actually, is that him over there in the black shirt?

MIKE

No, I don't think so. I don't think that we can really see him from here. Last time I saw him he was all the way over-

JACOB

But they put us in the corner over here. Why would they put him somewhere else?

MIKE

(Affected.)

Wow, I don't know. It's a mystery. Maybe it's a mix-up.

JACOB

That is really odd. Are you sure we can't-

MIKE

I'm pretty sure we can't-

JACOB

Because we have a pretty good view-

(CONTINUED)
MIKE
He might've stepped out or maybe- OK, stop. Please.

Long beat.

JACOB

(Kind.)
Why are you here, Mike?

MIKE
What?

JACOB
Why are you here? You can tell me.

MIKE
I told you. I'm here because my frien-

JACOB
I know you're lying, Mike. As sad as it may seem, it's basically the same group of guys who show up at these little sessions every week. I recognize all of the gay men here. Everyone but you. And maybe one of those guys over there having nice, flirty conversations with women is with you, but I don't think they're the ones trying something new... So what's the deal? Does your friend Martin really exist?

Beat.

It's OK, Mike. I, out of all people, am not in a position to judge anyone, believe me. But if what I'm thinking is right, I think I've been in your position before. And it's scary as hell, I get that. I do. But you came in here, and that takes a crazy amount of bravery. Really, it does. I would've never been able to do that. But you came here, and I think you came here for a reason. Now, did you really come here with your friend?

MIKE
No...

JACOB
And Memphis? Who is she?

MIKE
She's- um- she's... where I grew up.

JACOB nods. There's a hint of a smile.

JACOB
That's cute, Mike. You're cute.

Beat.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

MIKE

Thanks.

Beat.

JACOB

So, why are you here?

MIKE

I don’t know... I don’t really know what I want. I guess I’m just... trying to figure things out... I’m searching.

JACOB

Yeah? Well we’ve got a lot in common, Mike. I’m searching, too.

A loud buzzer is heard.

SCENE 5: CONCLUDING

Tick tick tick.

Cafe sounds.

JORDAN

Well, we only had one fight outside and it looks like a whole lot of you found someone special! Now, that’s a pretty good first day if I do say so myself!

JORDAN starts clapping and a few others join in.

Alright, I want to thank you all for coming out and making this inaugural day such a success! And of course, I want to thank Jaden and Maria Blazay once again for sharing you all with us and as previously noted, a small percentage of today’s revenue is going to help out the Blazays! Let’s give a round of applause for the Blazays, ladies and gentlemen.

Real applause.

Alright, that’s it, folks! You don’t have to go home, but you can’t stay here!

Beat.

Or you can, because we don’t technically close for another four hours... but you- I mean- if you’re not eating or drinking you should probably just go... elsewhere.

Someone mercifully starts clapping.

Oh! and come back tomorrow for Sunday night Salsa dancing! Bring your dancin' shoes and be willing to groove! If I don’t see you then, I hope to see you all next week, same time, same place! Stay classy, Full Moon Cafe!
SCENE 6: CONNECTING

I swear this thing... Ugh.

You need some help with that?

Oh, no, I think I-

No, I can help.

OK, never mind.

It's no problem. I'm just trying to help.

Right.

Banner folding sounds. Beat.

Well, I should probably-

Oh, yeah, of course.

By the way, thanks. You know, for the- for helping me out. And I'm really sorry about earlier. I just- you seem like a really cool person and I was just wanting to spend more time with you. Just to get to know you. I didn't mean for it to be like a date or anything. I mean, I did, but I just- it doesn't have to be is what I'm trying to say.

(Beat.)

So, if you ever wanted to hang out and talk about books and siblings again, I'm still game.
MIRANDA

I don't have a boyfriend!

JACK

Beat.

I'm sorry?

MIRANDA

I said, "I don't have a boyfriend." I lied to you.

Beat.

JACK

(Confused.)

Oh... OK.

MIRANDA

(Flustered.)

It's just you really freaked me out. Not in a bad way - it wasn't you. I just get freaked out easily because - well, OK. Um - I told you I have, like, six brothers. Yeah? And they're all older than me. Two are even twins. That doesn't even have anything to do with anything - Anyways, they - my brothers - have always been really protective of me. You know? Their only sister and all of that. So - I've never... I don't really know how to say this without sounding like a five year old, but I've never gone out with anybody. Not in, like, a real way. So... I mean, I could've. I could have, I just... A lot of guys are automatic or completely disregard me in every way imaginable, but you don't which leads me back to the freaking out part. You've been really nice all day and you've tried to talk to me and make a connection, but I don't do well with connections. At least not real ones that matter. So, yeah, I know you didn't ask, but that's why I lied to you and that's what's going on with me.

Beat.

JACK

So... are you saying yes to -

MIRANDA

Oh, god, yeah. Sorry. Yeah! If you still want to.

Beat.

JACK

OK.

Beat.

(CONTINUED)
OK?

MIRANDA
Beat.

JACK

Yeah.

MIRANDA

So, is it a date?

JACK

If you want it to be.

MIRANDA

I do, yeah.

JACK

OK, then it’s a date.

MIRANDA

Cool.

JACK

Right...

(Beat.)

I’m Jack, by the way.

MIRANDA

I know, I saw your- uh- name tag. I’m Miranda.

JACK

(Smiles.)

I know, I saw yours, too.

(Beat.)

So, I’m off work- I’ve just got to go put this up. Are you gonna be done soon?

MIRANDA

Oh- I’m actually off right now.

JACK

But you stopped to help me?

MIRANDA

Yeah.

JACK

Smiles.

Well, thank you. Um- let me just put this-

JACK

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JACK (cont'd)
I'm parked out back if you want to ride with me.

MIRANDA
(Calling him.)
Sounds great.

JACK
(Shakes hands.)
Awesome.

MIRANDA
Yeah. Awesome. 

Beat.
A loud buzzer is heard.

End of scene.

END OF PLAY

Cue 155: Outro