

THE DATE

Written by

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INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

A small, neat, well appointed apartment. DAVID, late twenties or early thirties, tidies the already very tidy room.

David stops in front of a mirror, adjusts his tie, buttons and then unbuttons his sport coat, then buttons it again. He takes a long look at himself then takes the sports coat off and hangs it over his shoulder. He assesses this look.

The intercom buzzer RINGS.

David looks for a place to put his sports coat. He hangs it on a chair, he folds it on the couch, he puts it on another chair.

The intercom buzzer RINGS twice in rapid succession, then again a third time. David hurries to answer it. He pushes the button and speaks into the speaker.

DAVID

Hello?

VOICE

(through the intercom)

Hi, it's Emily. I'm a little early.

I hope that's OK?

DAVID

Emily, hi. Yeah sure. Hi, come on up. It's four W. W as in west. Like, West Coast or watermelon.

VOICE

OK, got it.

DAVID

Yeah, great. Come on up.

David let's go of the talk button and presses the BUZZ-IN button. He goes over to the couch and fluffs up the pillows, straightens them, changes them around, sorts things on the coffee table, goes back to the pillows on the couch.

There is a knock on the door.

David looks up and then fusses with the pillows some more.

The door bell RINGS.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Coming.

David stands back to look at the room one final time, then hurries to the door and opens it.

EMILY, late twenties, stands in the doorway dressed up for a night out.

David is spellbound. He stands there gawking at Emily.

EMILY

Hi. David?

DAVID

Emily. Hi.

EMILY

Can I come in?

DAVID

I'm sorry. Of course, come in.
Please, come in.

David steps aside and Emily breezes past him. She walks around the apartment checking it out. He follows her.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Nice to meet you finally. Would you like something to drink? A glass of wine? Water? Seltzer or Pellegrino?

EMILY

No thank you.

DAVID

Scotch?

EMILY

No, I'm fine.

Emily continues to check the place out.

DAVID

As I think I told you, this is my first online date. I decided to give it a try. You know, throw my towel into the ring so to speak. I haven't been on a date in awhile, so I figured what the hell. Give it a go. How bad can it be?

Emily turns to David.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Do you use dating services much?
Doesn't seem like you would need
to, I mean. You are very, very
attractive.

EMILY

That's very nice of you to say,
David. Thank you.

DAVID

Not at all. My pleasure. Really.

Emily bustles around a bit more and David follows her.

DAVID (CONT'D)

You are even prettier in person
than in your picture. I mean, the
picture is very nice, a nice
likeness, but wow. The real thing
is amazing.

Emily stops short and turns quickly. It is all David can do
not to bump into her.

EMILY

Thank you. You know, even though we
have just met, I feel like I know
you.

DAVID

Really?

EMILY

Yeah, I feel really, really good
about you. Like I can trust you.

DAVID

That's fantastic. Wow. I'm honored
that you feel that way. Wow. That's
something. Wow. I feel that way
too.

EMILY

That's why I feel really good about
asking a favor from you, even
though this is the first time we've
met face to face.

DAVID

A favor? Sure. Anything. Fire away.
You bet.

EMILY

It's just that this amazing opportunity, I mean just beyond incredible opportunity has just now come up, and I want to seize it. It's a chance of a life time. I don't want to jinx it by saying anything about it, but trust me, it is beyond exciting. I would be so in your debt, so completely in your debt, if you could help me out.

DAVID

Well, sure. I guess so. I mean, we have just met. We've had some interesting e-mail exchanges. Some very honest communication, I like to think. So yes, I'd like to help you out.

EMILY

Fantastic.

Emily bolts for the front door, opens it, steps outside and motions for someone to come in.

HARRY, an elderly women, steps into the doorway. She is dressed neatly in hat and coat.

Emily coaxes Harry into the apartment and closes the door.

EMILY (CONT'D)

I know this is going to sound a bit strange, David.

DAVID

Who is this person?

EMILY

Oh. Sorry. David, this is my granny, Harry. Granny, David.

Harry smiles and nods her head, then looks at her feet.

David looks back and forth between Emily and Harry.

EMILY (CONT'D)

So, as I was saying, I have this amazing, chance of a life time meeting very soon, and it would be so helpful to me, and just so awesome if you could watch granny for me for a couple of hours.

DAVID

Excuse me?

EMILY

She isn't any trouble at all. She hardly speaks. She loves a cup of tea and likes to look out the window.

DAVID

But, we have a date. It's all arranged. I've made reservations.

EMILY

I know, I know. I have been so looking forward to it. Our date. But something's come up. I would be so grateful, if you could do this for me. I'll make it up to you. I promise.

Emily gives him a pleading look.

David looks at Emily and then over at Harry.

Harry smiles.

DAVID

I don't know. This is not what I had in mind for this evening. This is very out of the ordinary.

EMILY

I know. It's a strange request. But remember your e-mail about how you were looking for something different? A different kind of experience? How you want to make a change, stir things up, start in on a new direction? If you can find it in your heart to help me out here, take a chance, step outside the ordinary, then who knows what might happen. I have a good feeling about this. There's magic in the air. Can you feel it?

DAVID

Well, sort of. Well, yes. I do. Strange magic, for sure. Very, very strange magic.

EMILY

It's time for a change. A big change. I know it. We just have to embrace it.

DAVID

Embrace it. Yeah, I hear you.

David attempts to wrap his head around what is happening.

DAVID (CONT'D)

OK. Call me crazy. I'll do it.

EMILY

Excellent. I knew I could count on you.

Emily gives David a kiss on the cheek. She kisses Harry and settles her on the couch.

EMILY (CONT'D)

I'll be back in no time. You won't regret this. Thank you so much.

Emily shakes David's hand, kisses him on the cheek again and then hurries for the door. Heading out the door, she turns back.

EMILY (CONT'D)

See you soon.

Emily leaves and closes the door.

David stands and stares at the door. He slowly turns to look at Harry.

Harry smiles at David.

David quickly walks to the door and puts his hand on the door knob. He hesitates and then slowly walks back into the room.

DAVID

I don't believe this. The woman of my dreams walks in my door and just as quickly walks back out leaving her granny on my couch. Just my luck. Unbelievable.

Harry smiles then looks at her feet.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Well, you might as well get comfortable. Here, let me take your coat.

Harry stands up, removes her coat and hat and hands them to David. He hangs them in his closet and walks back to her.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Your granddaughter is a piece of work. Does she get her moxie from your side of the family?

Harry smiles and looks away.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Feels like I'm in a Twilight Zone episode. Well, Harry, right? I hear you like tea. Can I get you a cup?

Harry smiles and nods yes.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Not much of a talker, hey. That's OK. I admire reticence in those capable of it. I never have been able to shut up. Words, sentences, cascades of verbiage just issue forth of their own accord, quite independent of me. But anyway, let me get you that cup of tea. As a matter of fact, I could use a cup of tea myself right now.

David leaves the room. Harry gets comfortable on the couch. She looks around the room then leans over and picks up a small statue of an elephant. She examines it closely then sets it back where she found it.

INSERT: CLOSE-UP ON ELEPHANT

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

David returns carrying a tray with mugs, a tea pot under a cozy, sugar, milk and spoons. He puts the tray on the coffee table in front of the couch.

David pulls up a chair opposite Harry, sits down and starts to pour the tea. When finished, he puts the tea cozy over the pot.

Harry helps herself to sugar and milk.

DAVID

Emily was so mysterious about this meeting of hers. I have no idea how long it will take.

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

If she's back in not too long a time, we could still go for dinner. But she'd have to take you home first. That could be a problem. What were you two doing together shopping for night gowns, getting your dentures adjusted, buying panty hose?

Harry sips her tea and smiles.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Emily mentioned a roommate. That wouldn't be you would it? Rents being what they are, I wouldn't be surprised if she was shackled-up with her granny, although that seems unlikely, really. How's the tea?

HARRY

Very nice, thank you.

DAVID

She speaks. As from the mouth of babes. Thus spake Zarathustra. You gave me quite a start there. I'd grown accustomed to your muteness.

HARRY

Just biding my time. When you get to be my age, there's no need to rush things.

DAVID

That's all well and good, but this opens up the possibility for some answers. What the hell/heck is going on here?

Harry smiles and sips her tea.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Is this some kind of ploy on Emily's part to play hard to get; put me on the defensive; whittle me down to size? I have a keen eye for seeing through that sort of subterfuge. Or is this the sensitivity test to measure my ability to empathize?

HARRY

You're sweet. This a nice place you've got here. Interesting decor and well maintained for a single man.

DAVID

Thank you very much, but let's leave the decor out of this for the moment. What gives? What's the play here? Let up on the evasive behavior and fess up.

HARRY

I can understand that you might be a little miffed.

DAVID

Miffed? Not me. I'm not miffed. And I'm not against serving tea to elderly ladies in the afternoon, but that was not on the program for tonight's activities.

David takes a sip of his tea.

HARRY

Don't get excited. I understand. This isn't what I had planned either. Sometimes things change and you have to roll with it.

DAVID

I'm rolling with it alright, but I prefer not being kept in the dark while rolling. It gets disorienting.

HARRY

You do have a way with words.

DAVID

You're long on compliments, but short on explanations.

HARRY

I'm good for advise as well.

DAVID

Advise? That's about the very last thing I need right now. There's never a shortage of advise. The shelves of life are overflowing with the stuff.

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

I'm always getting advise from everyone I know. People who can't even put one foot in front of the other seem to be very adept at giving advise.

HARRY

All the same, I have some for you.

David looks away and then back to Harry.

DAVID

OK. Let's hear it.

HARRY

I'll give it to you straight.

DAVID

Please do. If there's one thing I can't stand, its watered down advise.

HARRY

I love my granddaughter, and she is a lovely person.

DAVID

I was in the process of finding that out for myself, when you showed up.

HARRY

But.

David stands up and strides back and forth in front of the coffee table.

DAVID

But? But? I don't want to hear about but. But ushers in a conditional phrase that only complicates the "she is a lovely person" proposition. Let's stick with the original thought, shall we? Simple is simple. Let's keep it that way.

HARRY

She's not right for you.

DAVID

What?

HARRY

It's not a good match.

DAVID

Emily and I have spent all of five minutes together. I know you better than I know her. Don't you think you're jumping the gun a bit? These things take time. Dinner and a movie, a walk in the park, a trip to the museum. You can't write off a relationship before its gotten off of the starting block.

HARRY

Believe me, I know about these things. It won't fly.

DAVID

Thanks so much for the vote of confidence. You really know how to build a guy up just to tear him down.

HARRY

You're welcome.

DAVID

More tea?

David stands and fills both their mugs and then goes around and sits on the couch next to Harry.

They both sip their tea.

HARRY

However.

DAVID

I'm not sure I can take whatever is coming next. Time out.

They continue to sip their tea.

HARRY

However, there is this adorable young woman in my building.

DAVID

Adorable? That sounds dreadful.

HARRY

She's just your type. You would be perfect together.

DAVID
What type is that?

HARRY
Never you mind.

DAVID
What's this adorable woman's name?

HARRY
Leslie. I've known her for years.
You can't go wrong. She's
wonderful.

DAVID
Wonderful. Adorable. I can't go
wrong. Who are you, The Matchmaker?

David puts their mugs on the tray and cleans up the coffee table.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Do you have dinner plans?

HARRY
As a matter of fact, I don't.

David stands up and helps Harry up.

DAVID
I have reservations at a restaurant
I've been wanting to try for a long
time. Will you join me? My treat.

HARRY
That would be lovely. I've worked
up quite an appetite.

David gets Harry's coat and hat from the closet. David helps Harry on with her coat and hat.

DAVID
I'll bet you have. You can tell me
all about Leslie at dinner.

They walk to the door.

HARRY
There's so much to tell, I don't
know where to begin.

They walk out and the door closes behind them.