

Person Cara sitting on the bed scrolling through her phone as Jess scrambles around looking through the heaps of clothes on the floor. She picks up a top holding it up to herself before flinging it away.

JESS

Are you gonna sit there on your phone all day or are you gonna help me?

Cara ignores her and continues to scroll through her phone. She jolts up when Person A throws a shirt at her head.

CARA

Umm excuse me...I'm the one that set you up with this guy in the first place. My work here is done.

Jess gives her an unimpressed look. She walks over to a specific pile of clothes and starts looking through it. After a moment she pauses.

JESS

I don't even know the guy.

Cara stops scrolling and chuckles at her phone screen.

CARA

Yeah that's usually how blind dates work.

JESS

Ok smart ass. Since you know so much, which top should I wear?

Cara glances up quickly and sees Jess holding up two shirts.

CARA

Go with the one on the left.

Cara goes back to her phone. Then she takes a quick second look at the shirts.

Yeah definitely the one on the left.

Jess leaves the room to go change. A few moments later she comes back and Cara hasn't moved an inch. Jess goes to check herself in the mirror one last time. Sighing briefly she gives herself an encouraging smile and leaves.

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INT. RESTAURANT- AFTERNOON

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Jess sits at a table near the back of the restaurant. Most of the surrounding tables and booths are empty save for the booth two tables away which sits a lone guy reading a book.

Her date, Nate, sits across from her looking around the restaurant and stealing glances at his watch. He takes a sip of his drink and looks at her from above the cups' rim.

JESS

I've got another one.

Nate gives her an unimpressed look. Placing his glass down and taking another glance at his watch.

Ok...what kind of shoes does an artist wear?

Nate just looks at her before subtly tilting his head gesturing her to continue.

JESS

Sketchers!

Nate rolls his eyes quite dramatically. Jess notices and slightly shrugs.

Get it? Cause artists sketch things...

From the booth two tables down, Jess can see the guy quietly giggling to himself. She notices that he is alone and apparently reading a book. Jess is still looking at him when she asks

JESS

Why did the cookie go to the hospital?

Nate looks more irritated than before and gives her a straight face before responding.

NATE

I don't know, Jess. Why?

JESS

Because he felt a little crummy.

Jess answers with a cheeky grin, stealing another glance at the booth with the guy. The guy in the booth is giggling again and failing to keep it quiet. Jess notices again and smiles even wider.

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Nate starts collecting his belongings. He checks his watch again, takes another sip of his water, and makes a move to get up. As he starts to rise Jess turns back to look at him.

NATE

Listen, I don't think this date is going how either of us planned. It's probably best if we end it now, before either of us gets too annoyed.

JESS

Oh. Oh yeah definitely. Yeah th-that's probably a good idea. It was nice to meet you Nate.

Nate gives her a small smile before grabbing his jacket and quickly exiting the restaurant.

Jess sits looking around the restaurant. She twists the straw around her water and takes a sip. She glances at the guy in the booth who is still reading. She looks down at her lap before she hears a voice directed towards her.

RYAN

You know it's his loss. You don't deserve a guy that doesn't think your jokes are funny.

When Jess looks up, he's directly at her and goes to close his book. Jess smiles but still doesn't look at him directly.

JESS

And do you think my jokes are funny?

RYAN

I know you saw me laughing the whole time. I wasn't exactly subtle about it.

JESS

Well thank you. I appreciate someone who can laugh at my jokes. Believe it or not, it's kind of hard to find.

RYAN

My name is Ryan by the way.

JESS

Jess.

Ryan chuckles. Jess goes to take a sip of her water.

RYAN

I know. I could hear your entire date. Including the very entertaining part where you introduced yourselves. Do you normally forget your name or was that just a one time thing?

Jess almost chokes on her drink.

JESS

No. I-I don't forget my name often. It's only when I'm really nervous.

RYAN

Are you nervous right now?

JESS

No. Why would I be nervous right now?

RYAN

Because you haven't even made eye contact with me the entire time we've been talking.

Jess looks up at him directly then and slightly blushes under his stare.

JESS

Well...I'm just a naturally anxious person

Ryan nods and turns back to his book. Jess looks around the restaurant then down at her hands, thumbs twisting around each other. After a moment she glances back up.

JESS

Ryan, do you maybe um, want to have dinner with me? I mean, that is, if you're not waiting for someone...

RYAN

Usually I just come here to spend some time by myself and observe people, but I'd love to have dinner with you. But only if you promise to tell me a joke.

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Jess releases a heavy breath and laughs.

JESS

I think I can do that

Ryan grabs his book and stands up. He makes his way over and sits across from Jess. She looks right at him smile on her face.

JESS

So Ryan, why was the teddy bear  
never hungry?

Ryan puts down his book and smiles.

RYAN

I don't know, Jess. Please  
enlighten me.

Jess laughs and smiles big before responding.

JESS

He was always too stuffed.

END