

THE BLIND DATE

by

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SCENE: The interior of a bar, early evening, happy hour-ish. A man, early 30's, is standing at the busy bar. His name is John. He is sipping a martini by himself. A very attractive woman, same age, looks around the bar, sees John and walks over to him. She laughs and grasps his hand warmly. Her name is Phyllis.

PHYLLIS

John!

John is startled and looks at her confused.

JOHN

Huh?

PHYLLIS

I knew it! I recognized you from your picture, although you're much more handsome in person.

JOHN

My picture?

PHYLLIS

From the dating service, of course. Did you forget you uploaded a picture along with your personality profile?

JOHN

Uh...personality profile?

She twirls, proudly displaying her body.

PHYLLIS

Well...what do you think?

JOHN

About what?

PHYLLIS

Me, silly! Do I look like my picture? Be honest!

JOHN

Well...you're very attractive, that's for sure.

PHYLLIS

Flattery will get you everywhere!

JOHN

(warming to her)

Well, then you're *gorgeous*.

PHYLLIS

Oh you! You're as charming as your letter.

JOHN

My...letter?

PHYLLIS

You are a playful one, aren't you? That sweet poetic letter you wrote to me through "Single's Scene Dating Service". The one where you said my picture was like a photograph of a pre-Raphaelite angel...a masterpiece worthy of a Davinci, quote unquote.

JOHN

I wrote that?

PHYLLIS

Of course, modest. Listen, why don't we sit down and get better acquainted.

JOHN

Yeah...sure.

The sit at a small intimate table. A SERVER comes over.

PHYLLIS

Okay, now let's see if I can remember...Grey Goose and tonic with a twist of lime, am I right?

JOHN

Yeah...that sounds good.

PHYLLIS

Now...can you remember what I drink?

JOHN

(thinking hard)

Oh...right. You like that drink with...uh, that kind of liquor...uh, that special...um...

PHYLLIS

(helping him)

Rum.

JOHN

(quickly)

Rum! Rum, rum, rum.

PHYLLIS

And what else?

JOHN

Rum and...uh....Coke?

PHYLLIS

Oh my god, you remembered! You sweet thing!

She touches his face lovingly. The server leaves to get the drinks.

PHYLLIS (CONT'D)

So...how's the world of high finance, stock options and corporate takeovers treating you these days?

JOHN

I wouldn't know.

PHYLLIS

What?

JOHN

I mean...it gets a little grueling sometimes, but you know how it is...

PHYLLIS

Not really. Tell me about it.

JOHN

Well, there's really not much to tell...

PHYLLIS

What did you say your job title was?

JOHN

Well, it's complicated...I'm a corporate...executive... financial...marketing...development...analyst.

PHYLLIS

(impressed)

Goodness....you must get exhausted just explaining your title.

JOHN

It does take a lot out of me. But listen...I don't want to talk about me. I'd just like to get to know you better. How are things in...your line of work?

PHYLLIS

Busy, busy, busy. That's why I joined the dating service. Otherwise, I'd never meet anyone.

JOHN

Yeah...I understand. So how are things in the...uh...in your...work environment?

PHYLLIS

You mean the hospital?

JOHN

Yeah...the hospital!

PHYLLIS

Hectic. Just today I performed three very serious operations.

JOHN

Wow! Three operations in one day! Whew! I guess people don't take very good care of themselves do they?

PHYLLIS

Or their pets.

JOHN

Pets? You're a doctor...right?

PHYLLIS

Veterinarian.

JOHN

Right -- animal doctor. That's what I meant. That must be quite a challenging vocation.

PHYLLIS

It has its ups and downs. Oh, by the way, how's June?

JOHN

Still there before July?

PHYLLIS

No, silly. Your twin sister, June.

JOHN

Oh...she's...much better.

PHYLLIS

She came out of the coma?

JOHN

Coma? Yeah, yeah...the doctor said she just...you know, had to sleep it off.

PHYLLIS

(taking his hand)

I know how worried you were.

JOHN

I don't like to talk about it. We were...I mean *are* very close.

PHYLLIS

I'll say. Hard to believe you were once Siamese twins.

JOHN

Siamese twins? Oh, yeah...we were inseparable.

(laughs nervously)

For awhile, anyway.

The server returns with their drinks.

PHYLLIS

So...are you still going to Naples next month?

JOHN

Naples...Italy?

PHYLLIS

No, silly...Naples, Florida! To visit your mother!

JOHN

Yeah...I thought I might do that. Haven't seen her in awhile.

PHYLLIS

I thought you just visited last month?

JOHN

Well, I get really homesick!

PHYLLIS

I think it's wonderful that you're so close to your family. I mean, that a wealthy, erudite busy man of the world like yourself takes the time to be with his loved ones.

JOHN

Well, I feel it's important to focus on the things that really matter.

PHYLLIS

Paris, London, Tokyo...

JOHN

Huh?

PHYLLIS

It must be thrilling to have a business that takes you all over the globe. Such exotic locations...

JOHN

Oh...right. But you know, it can get very lonely sometimes.

PHYLLIS

And to be able to speak *six* languages! How do you do it?

JOHN

Six...languages? Is it that many?

PHYLLIS

Talk to me in a foreign language, John. There's something about a foreign language that just turns me on.

JOHN

Really? Well, gosh...it's been so long. I think I may have forgotten...

PHYLLIS

All *six* of them?

JOHN

No...only five. I still remember English.

PHYLLIS

Speak French to me, John. I just get *soooo* excited when I hear French.

JOHN

Excited, huh?

PHYLLIS

Oui oui, mon cher.

JOHN

Well...in that case...bonjour, mademoiselle...uh...voulez vous
cou chez avec moi, sais soir?

PHYLLIS

Ohhhh....I know what that means you naughty boy.

JOHN

(nervously)

You do? Parlais vous francais?

PHYLLIS

No...not really...but I know the song.

JOHN

Thank god.

PHYLLIS

What?

JOHN

I said "that's odd."

PHYLLIS

What is?

JOHN

That I can't seem to remember any more French. It must be your
pretty eyes distracting me...

PHYLLIS

Oh, you! You know, I've always wanted to learn. Will you teach
me?

JOHN

Teach you what?

PHYLLIS

French!

JOHN

Sure. I can teach you French. First we put our lips together
and then we very slowly...

Phyllis giggles and slaps him playfully.

PHYLLIS

You are such a sly devil! You're a lot friskier than you let on in your personality profile.

JOHN

Well, I didn't expect you to be quite so...alluring.

PHYLLIS

Flatterer! I'll bet you get plenty of chances in that penthouse apartment of yours in Trump Towers. You must take me there sometime.

JOHN

Oh, sure...but it's being renovated at the moment. You have the most engaging smile...

PHYLLIS

Oh, now stop it. You'll make me blush. Have you decided whether or not you're going to buy the chalet?

JOHN

Chalet?

PHYLLIS

In Switzerland. I think that is soooo incredible.

JOHN

Yeah...that would be incredible, all right. But you know...uh...uh...

PHYLLIS

Phyllis.

JOHN

Phyllis! But you know, Phyllis...I don't remember if I wrote this in my personality....thingy...

PHYLLIS

Profile.

JOHN

Right. But I've been seriously trying to get back to basics lately...to throw off the confines of my....my....

PHYLLIS

Outrageous wealth and grandiose style of living?

JOHN

Exactly! See, I've been searching for someone who could experience the joy of sharing and caring and growing together, not only as individuals but as partners...to nurture one another and enjoy the simpler pleasures that life has to offer...without lies or pretense. That special someone with whom I can explore the deepest heartfelt meanings of life and love...with whom I can speak the purest language of my soul.

PHYLLIS

(deeply moved)

Wow...that was beautifully said.

JOHN

Thanks.

PHYLLIS

I had no idea you were so...deep. I never would have expected it from a Republican.

JOHN

(insulted)

Republican...okay, now this is going too far.

PHYLLIS

(looking deeply into his eyes)

What's going too far, John?

JOHN

Nothing, nothing...but just so you know...I am considering changing parties.

PHYLLIS

Really? Me too!

JOHN

(staring deeply into her eyes)

Phyllis...this may sound like a line...but I think I could really fall for you.

PHYLLIS

(staring back)

Oh, John...I think I could fall for you, too.

They hold hands and smile adoringly at one another. Then slowly, sweetly, they kiss.

PHYLLIS (CONT'D)

I can't believe this is actually happening. They told me it might, but I still can't believe it.

JOHN

Who told you...your parents?

PHYLLIS

No...."Single's Scene Dating Service".

John looks uncomfortable for a moment, then makes a decision.

JOHN

Phyllis...there's something I have to tell you...

PHYLLIS

Yes, John?

He leans over to take her hand and spills his drink on himself. He gets up quickly, brushing himself.

JOHN

I'll be right back.

He goes to the restroom. Phyllis smiles and waits, sipping her drink. A MAN walks by and eyes her with recognition.

MAN

Phyllis? Phyllis Kaminski? Sorry I'm late. Traffic was terrible.

PHYLLIS

(startled)

Who are you?

MAN

John. John Paxton from "Single's Scene Dating Service".

Phyllis looks toward where John exited with a confused look. She looks up at the man.

PHYLLIS

You're John Paxton?

MAN

Of course. Don't you recognize me from my picture?

PHYLLIS

No...because I'm *not* Phyllis Kaminski.

MAN

What? Of course you are! I'd recognize that face anywhere...."a pre-Raphaelite angel...masterpiece worthy of a Davinci."

PHYLLIS

I don't know what you're talking about.

MAN

(agitated)

Oh, come on, Phyllis! I didn't drop all that dough with that stupid dating service to get a goddamn runaround. Now, let's cut the crap, huh?

PHYLLIS

I'd appreciate it if you wouldn't use that language. Besides, I'm waiting for someone.

MAN

(very rude now)

Yeah...me! John Paxton! Now, listen you little tease, let's stop this nonsense, huh? Enough's enough!

John appears, threateningly.

JOHN

Hey! Are you harassing my fiance?

The man is taken aback. He looks at her. She looks at John adoringly.

MAN

Your...fiance?

JOHN

That's right, loudmouth. My fiance.

The man pauses, then shrugs his shoulders.

MAN

My mistake. I thought she was someone else.

(to server)

Put those two on my tab.

He takes a last look at Phyllis, shakes his head and walks away.

JOHN

(to server)
Bottle of Dom Perignon.

He sits down.

PHYLLIS
You were amazing.

JOHN
Listen, Phyllis. I should've told you this right off the bat.
But you were so beautiful and we were getting along so well...I
thought maybe...just maybe...

PHYLLIS
(finger to his lips)
Shhhh...it's all right. I knew you weren't John Paxton. You
don't look anything like him.

JOHN
Then...why?

PHYLLIS
I just had an incredible feeling about you the moment I saw you.

JOHN
Unbelievable.

She holds out her hand.

PHYLLIS
Phyllis Kaminski. What's your name?

JOHN
John.

She looks at him incredulously.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Really. It's John. John Collamandelbaum.

He takes her hand and shakes it.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Pleasure to meet you....Phyllis.

The server brings an open bottle of Dom Perignon and two
champagne flutes. They pour and John raises his glass in toast.

JOHN (CONT'D)

To new beginnings.

PHYLLIS

New beginnings. I like that.

They sip.

JOHN

Hey...you wanna get out of here?

PHYLLIS

Where to?

JOHN

I don't know...a walk?

PHYLLIS

Then what? You'll take me to your penthouse apartment in Trump Towers?

JOHN

No. I'll take you to my walk-up on East 3rd.

They smile at one another and clink glasses.

LIGHTS OUT

THE END