

IT'S A DATE

by Robert L. Crowe



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At open there are two chairs on stage representing chairs at a restaurant table. Mark is pacing, looking at his watch. Diane enters. In this scene both people have imaginary cue cards with questions. They hold the cards low so the other person doesn't see them. The cards are not used for every question, just those so indicated.

DIANE: Uh. Are you Mark?

MARK: Yes. Diane?

DIANE: Yes. Sorry I'm late. Traffic is terrible.

MARK: What kind of car do you drive?

DIANE: It's a bicycle. I rode my bicycle. A Schwinn.

MARK: Oh. Very nice. Our table is ready. Would you care to sit down?

DIANE: Yes. I found it easier to eat lunch that way.

MARK: Right over here. *(He holds chair for her.)*

DIANE: Thank you.

MARK: You're welcome. *(He sits.)* So.

DIANE: So.

MARK: Have you used the dating service before?

DIANE: No. No, I mean I've used the service before but I've never had a date. How about you?

MARK: Me, too. Me, too-not-had-a-date-before. I've been anxious to meet you because I've been registered with the company for a year and a half and they've never been able to match me until now.

DIANE: Oh, golly, wow. Same for me. I filed my application a year ago and sat by my phone for six months and never had a call. I quit sitting by my phone and still

didn't get a call. I came to the conclusion that sitting by the phone had no effect on getting a match.

MARK: Yeh, probably not. But, think about it. We are two people who didn't have a matched date in a year ... maybe the only two people registered who didn't have a match. I think that makes us a perfect match!

DIANE: You are probably right. I wonder if there are any other reasons why they put us together.

MARK: Well, maybe we'll find out over lunch. There's a menu. Perhaps we should order. *(They both pick up menus and study them a moment.)*

DIANE: I never know what to order in these fancy places.

MARK: Order anything you want. Lunch is on me.

DIANE: Well, you better wipe it off.

MARK: Wipe what off?

DIANE: The lunch that's on you. *(He stares.)* It's a joke.

MARK: Oh, of course. A joke. *(weak laugh)* Very funny. A sense of humor. Yes.

DIANE: I think a sense of humor is important. What do you think?

MARK: Oh, definitely. Very important. *(slight pause)* A lot of people say I'm funny.

DIANE: Maybe they're talking about the way you look. *(He stares again.)* That's another joke.

MARK: *(another weak laugh)* Sure. I knew that. Here's the waiter. Go ahead and order.

DIANE: *(to waiter)* Hello. No, nothing to drink. *(to Mark)* Do you drink?

MARK: No, I don't drink ... unless you count water as a drink.

DIANE: *(pause)* Of course, I count water as a drink. Why wouldn't I say the water is a drink?

MARK: It was a joke.

DIANE: Oh. (*looks at menu*) I guess I'll have the cheeseburger and mashed potatoes. (*Waiter is asking, "How would you like that cooked?"*) Well done. I like my mashed potatoes well done. Same for the cheese.

MARK: Well, there's another thing we have in common. (*to waiter*) I'll have the same thing. (*to her*) So.

DIANE: So.

MARK: What do you do? Are you employed or a student?

DIANE: I'm an actress.

MARK: What are you acting in?

DIANE: Nothing at the moment. I'm between successes. What do you do?

MARK: I work at the country club with the golf pro.

DIANE: You're a professional golfer?

MARK: No. no. I work at the driving range. Collecting golf balls.

DIANE: Wow. That must be very dangerous.

MARK: Oh, yeh. I get hazardous duty pay. (*makes a gesture like a golf ball hitting him on the head*) Bonk! Unfortunately, there's no regular pay. Just hazardous duty pay. But, I've got plans. Big plans.

DIANE: Oh, great.

MARK: (*He nods.*) Great plans.

DIANE: (*a pause, then she glances down and reads from her cue cards*) How do you feel about poverty in third world countries?

MARK: Oh. I'm against it.

DIANE: Do you think we should take money from Americans and give it to foreigners?

MARK: (*pauses, sees this is going in the wrong direction*) Uhhh. That depends on our foreign policy and a lot of our policy is foreign to me. Do you like baseball?



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