

19 REASONS WHY I, ALLISON MAXWELL, WILL NEVER GO OUT WITH MATTHEW WINTER

by **Scott Mullen**

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A Comedic Trio

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SYNOPSIS: Matthew Winter has asked Allison Maxwell out on a date every day for a year. Each day, Allison has refused and she’s fed up! To get her point across, Allison presents nineteen reasons why she will never go out with Matthew for her sociology class essay. However, Matthew gets the chance to rebut each point, leading to an unexpected result.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(2 females, 1 male)

- ALLISON (f) A teen girl who has made up her mind. *(63 lines)*
- MATTHEW (m) A teen boy trying to change her mind. *(64 lines)*
- MS. HAGEMAN (f) Any age; the patient teacher. *(7 lines)*

TIME: Present.

SETTING: A classroom.

SET: The classroom only needs to be suggested with a few touches, including maybe a chair for Matthew to sit in.

PROPS

- Allison’s essay pages

DIRECTOR’S NOTES

There is a lot of leeway in terms of the appearance of the classroom and the movement of the characters. Have fun with it, while keeping it all plausible.

AT START: *MS. HAGEMAN stands center stage.*

MS. HAGEMAN: Okay, thank you Emily for that interesting report about mall culture. Next report is from... Allison Maxwell.

ALLISON steps onto the stage, a few pages in her hand.

ALLISON: My report is titled "19 Reasons Why I, Allison Maxwell, Will Never Go Out With Matthew Winter."

MATTHEW: *(Offstage.)* Seriously?

MS. HAGEMAN: I'm not sure this is appropriate, Miss Maxwell.

ALLISON: I assure you, that this report, which deals with teenage dating today, is very much on topic for this sociology assignment.

MS. HAGEMAN: I'm going to allow this, but only because I've witnessed Mr. Winter's... behavior. But I'm not going to give you very much leeway, and I'm going to let Mr. Winter come up here and rebut any of your points that he sees fit.

MATTHEW: *(Offstage.)* Do I have to?

MS. HAGEMAN: Though I'm not going to let you have much leeway either, Mr. Winter.

MATTHEW walks out. Not very happy.

MATTHEW: Can't I just stipulate that I agree with everything she says, and we move onto the next essay?

ALLISON and MS. HAGEMAN: No.

MATTHEW: Fine.

If there's a chair, MATTHEW might sit here, head down. MS. HAGEMAN leaves ALLISON center stage.

ALLISON: 19 Reasons Why I, Allison Maxwell, Will Never Go Out With Matthew Winter. Number 1. We have no chemistry.

MATTHEW: Objection.

MS. HAGEMAN: This isn't a courtroom.

MATTHEW: How does she know if we have chemistry if we've never gone out?

ALLISON: You can tell immediately if you have chemistry with someone.

MATTHEW: No... I disagree. Chemistry is deeper.

ALLISON: We have no chemistry! Number 2. He's shorter than me.

MATTHEW: That's just superficial.

ALLISON: Sometimes I like to wear heels!

MATTHEW: You can wear whatever you want.

ALLISON: Number 3. He's really needy.

MATTHEW: Ah. No. That's not true.

ALLISON: You asked me out every day for a year!

MATTHEW: I did, yes.

ALLISON: That's needy.

MATTHEW: Is it? Or is it just making my availability clear to you, so that you can take advantage of it?

ALLISON: I don't want to take advantage of it!

MATTHEW: One of these days I'll move on, and I won't ask you—and then you'll know I've moved on.

ALLISON: Move on!

MATTHEW: One of these days.

ALLISON: Number 4. He's a conformist.

MATTHEW: I am not!

ALLISON: You dress like everyone else!

MATTHEW: I wear jeans and a shirt! They are comfortable! What are you wearing that's so non-conformist?

ALLISON: Number 5. He's afraid to have an opinion.

MATTHEW: If I was ever in a situation where my opinions on the world mattered, I'm sure I would have an opinion. Though if you could be more specific—

ALLISON: Number 6. He doesn't have a car.

MATTHEW: Well that's true. Guilty.

ALLISON: So how can we go out?

MATTHEW: My older brother Luke said he'd drive us. Maybe. Or we can take the bus. I have extra tokens—do you want some?

ALLISON: Number 7. Matthew once pushed me down into the mud.

MATTHEW: I don't remember that.

ALLISON: It happened. And you didn't say you were sorry.

MATTHEW: How old were we?

ALLISON: We were 4.

MATTHEW: 4! You blame me for something that happened when I was 4?

ALLISON: It happened.

MATTHEW: Well, if it did, I'm sorry.

ALLISON: Too late. Number 8. We have nothing in common.

MATTHEW: Again, unless you date me, you won't know.

ALLISON: I know.

MATTHEW: No, you don't. I have hidden depths that need to be revealed in a one-on-one situation.

ALLISON: You don't have any hidden depths!

MATTHEW: I guess you'll never know.

ALLISON: Number 9. He went out with Kathy Sundstrom.

MATTHEW: Okay, that was a mistake.

ALLISON: Dating her doesn't say much for your taste levels.

MS. HAGEMAN: Careful Miss Maxwell.

ALLISON: It's okay. She moved away.

MATTHEW: I dated her when we were 13!

ALLISON: Nevertheless.

MATTHEW: What does it say about my taste levels that I like you?

ALLISON: Number 10. He's too shy.

MATTHEW: True. And if you knew how much I hate being up here—but again, hidden depths.

ALLISON: Number 11. He's not a vegan.

MATTHEW: Okay. This is true. But I don't judge people by whether they eat meat or not. Because I hate it when I get that judgey look from them. Still, if it's that important to you, I'll stop eating meat.

ALLISON: You don't need to stop eating meat! We're not going out!

MATTHEW: Still, you can cross it off the list.

ALLISON: Number 12. I'm going to college somewhere else. Far away. So it's silly to get into a serious relationship.

MATTHEW: That's why I'm perfect.

ALLISON: No! Because it would be serious to you!

MATTHEW: I just want to get to know you. What are you afraid of?

ALLISON: Number 13. We're never going to get married, so what's the point of dating?

MATTHEW: I think you're taking the whole dating thing too seriously. We're just practicing, so when we do meet our soulmates, we have some idea of how to interact with people in a dating situation.

ALLISON: But you want to practice with me. Specifically.

MATTHEW: Well... yeah.

ALLISON: Why.

MATTHEW: Because... I like you.

ALLISON: Number 14. Sometimes he breathes through his mouth.

MATTHEW: I had a cold!

ALLISON: Number 15—

MATTHEW: It feels like you're starting to stretch for reasons.

ALLISON: Number 15. You've gotten detention.

MATTHEW: I thought girls liked bad boys.

ALLISON: I don't.

MATTHEW: Fine. You want to hear the story? I pushed Derek Nelson into the trophy case. Shattered the glass.

ALLISON: That's not a good thing!

MATTHEW: He was picking on Stewie Wilson.

ALLISON: Oh.

MATTHEW: So detention was worth it.

ALLISON: Number 16. When I look at you, I don't feel all nervous and tense.

MATTHEW: That's not a bad thing.

ALLISON: That's what love is supposed to feel like!

MATTHEW: Maybe when you love someone you don't feel that. Maybe true love just feels... right.

ALLISON: Number 17. You like polka music.

MATTHEW: It's my grandfather's favorite.

ALLISON: I don't think I could ever listen to that much polka.

MATTHEW: Polka makes him happy. I like him being happy. So we listen to polka together. It grows on you.

ALLISON: Number 18. You don't know how to dance.

MATTHEW: Yeah. That is a problem.

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