

I'M NOT GOING TO DANCE WITH YOU

by Scott Mullen

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I'M NOT GOING TO DANCE WITH YOU

A Comedic Duet

by **Scott Mullen**

SYNOPSIS: Sometimes the best way to get someone to dance with you at a school dance might be to ask them not to dance.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 female, 1 male)

HENRY (m)..... Teen, shy. *(63 lines)*

EMILY (f)..... Teen, much less shy. *(66 lines)*

TIME: Present day.

SETTING: A school dance.

SET: Maybe something resembling a wall for them to stand against. Dance decorations (optional.)

COSTUMES: Nice but casual dress clothes.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Though it's not necessary, there are probably ways to suggest that it's a school dance. Maybe some decorations, some lighting. If there's background music, it's probably best to keep it very low.

AT START: *HENRY stands watching an unseen school dance. EMILY sidles up next to him.*

EMILY: I'm not going to dance with you.

HENRY: What?

EMILY: I mean, I love this song, it's such an amazing song. I know there are a lot of songs I couldn't dance to—but I think I'd be really good at this one. But I'm not going to dance with you.

HENRY: Do I know you?

EMILY: No. I'm new. My family just moved here last week. I'm Emily.

HENRY: Henry.

EMILY: Great. Now that we've introduced ourselves to each other, I'm just going to make it clear once again—don't ask me to dance. I'm not going to do it.

HENRY: I don't dance.

EMILY: Perfect. That makes it so much easier.

HENRY and EMILY watch the dance.

EMILY: Why don't you dance?

HENRY: I don't know.

EMILY: Do you not like it? Though I don't know how you can't like it—it looks like so much fun. Maybe you don't think you're good at it, but honestly, I look at these people out there dancing, it seems like most of them are just making it up as they go. Which is fine. So... why aren't you out there?

HENRY: Maybe I'm shy.

EMILY: I used to have that problem—

HENRY: That's hard to believe.

EMILY: It's true. Especially since we move so much. My dad works for a company that keeps sending him all over the country. So I have to meet new people. Which is really hard to do if you're shy. Finally, I just said, the heck with it, I'm going to be one of those people who isn't afraid to be themselves and talk way too much, and hope they wind up talking to people who don't mind. Do you mind?

HENRY: Do I mind—?

EMILY: That I talk so much.

HENRY: Oh. No.

EMILY: Good. So if you're shy, the solution is not to be shy. Now, who do you want to ask to dance?

HENRY: I don't.

EMILY: Come on. You're at a dance. You're standing here, watching dancers. Somewhere in your mind, you're out there with someone.

HENRY: I'm not.

EMILY: Humor me. If you had to dance with someone or the world would end, who would you ask to dance?

HENRY: Why would the world end?

EMILY: Just pretend.

HENRY: That doesn't make any sense.

EMILY: Just tell me.

HENRY: Fine. The girl over there in the blue. With her friends.

EMILY: Interesting choice. Reveals a lot about you.

HENRY: Like what?

EMILY: Go ask her to dance.

HENRY: No.

EMILY: Because—

HENRY: She'll probably say no.

EMILY: Then ask her not to dance.

HENRY: What?

EMILY: Yeah. Walk up to her, and tell her you aren't going to dance with her. She can't say no to that. Not really.

HENRY: Wait a minute—that's what you did to me!

EMILY: I did.

HENRY: Does that mean you want to dance with me?

EMILY: I told you—I'm not going to dance with you.

HENRY: But do you?

EMILY: I told you not to ask me.

HENRY: I'm not asking you!

EMILY: I like this song, too. I could really dance to this song.

HENRY: But not with me.

EMILY: Nope.

HENRY: Why don't you ask somebody?

EMILY: Just walk up to them?

HENRY: If you had to pick someone—

EMILY: I don't know any of these people.

HENRY: Just off appearance.

EMILY: That's not why I'd want to dance with someone. Because of how they look? Oh. No.

HENRY: I'm so confused.

EMILY: The girl you like—the one in the blue—

HENRY: I didn't say I liked her—

EMILY: Fine. The girl you want to dance with. You know her, right?

HENRY: Not really.

EMILY: But enough to know you want to dance with her. She's probably nice

HENRY: She is.

EMILY: Well there you go. That's a reason. I don't have a reason to dance with any of these people. They're strangers.

HENRY: I'm a stranger.

EMILY: Like I said, I'm not going to dance with you. Though we're not really strangers now, are we?

HENRY: I guess not.

EMILY: I think we've graduated to acquaintances.

HENRY: Would you dance with an acquaintance?

EMILY: Depends on if they were nice.

HENRY: Am I nice?

EMILY: Are you asking me to dance?

HENRY: No.

EMILY: Because—

HENRY: I know. You're not going to dance with me.

EMILY: Do you think you're nice?

HENRY: I try.

EMILY: That's a good answer.

HENRY and EMILY watch the dancing. EMILY taps her foot. HENRY notices.

HENRY: You really want to dance.

EMILY: I'm starting to feel like it might be fun to get out there. *(Points.)* I think I could do what she's doing.

HENRY: It's a little fast.

EMILY: You waiting for a slow song?

HENRY: No.

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