

THE KISS THAT WASN'T

A Ten-Minute Comedy Duet

by
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CAST: JANET and BENNY

JANET: You dumped her! You really dumped her! How could you do that to poor Ashley?

BENNY: I did NOTHING to Ashley. She did this to herself.

JANET: Are you nuts? You break up with her only three days before the big dance, after everyone has a date. I'll bet she's crushed. I guess you know you've sentenced Ashley to spend her prom night all alone. How sad.

BENNY: I wouldn't cry too many tears for my sweet, sad little ex-girlfriend. An evening alone sounds like a perfect learning experience for her.

JANET: You're heartless, Benny Brown! Absolutely heartless! Did you consider what a big event the prom is in a girl's life? She'll be warped after this heartbreak!

BENNY: Too late. She's already warped.

JANET: What's wrong with you?

BENNY: Nothing. Has it occurred to you that I might be in the very same boat...three days before the prom with no date?

JANET: It's not the same for a guy. Ashley bought a dress.

BENNY: I rented a tuxedo. And how do you judge that her predicament is any worse than mine?

JANET: I just assumed...

BENNY: Well, you assumed wrong. You wouldn't put Ashley on such a pedestal if you knew what she did to me.

JANET: I know everything about Ashley. She's my best friend. What could she possibly do to you that's so bad you would dump her?

BENNY: She cheated on me, Janet! After I gave her the best three months of my life – she cheated on me! She kissed Cameron. Right there during the acting tournament, she smacked a wet one on him. She didn't even try to hide it. Jonathan saw it all.

JANET: Jonathan? I certainly wouldn't call him a reliable source.

BENNY: He's a witness. And not just any witness. Jonathan was an eye-witness.

JANET: Means nothing.

BENNY: They send murderers to prison based on eye-witness accounts.

JANET: Yes, but in every courtroom, there's always a crack-pot who saw the whole thing – even though he has three felonies on his record and was really nowhere near the scene of the crime.

BENNY: Okay, okay. I grasp your point. Are you calling Jonathan a crack-pot?

JANET: No.

BENNY: Good, because I know he's telling the truth, and I don't think he'd like...

JANET: Jonathan is more the unscrupulous type.

BENNY: Unscrupulous?

JANET: Sure...like those convicts you see in the movies, who would gladly inform on their closest friend if it meant receiving a lighter sentence.

BENNY: You talk like Jonathan is a mob informant, when all he did was...

JANET: I know what he did, Benny. It's the motive that bothers me.

BENNY: What motive could he possibly have, besides not wanting to see a fellow male get squashed and helplessly spit out by a ruthless female.

JANET: What...Ashley, a ruthless female?

BENNY: Welcome to the third planet. Hello? She's evil. Given the opportunity, she would have stripped me of every ounce of pride I have. She used me, and as soon as it was convenient, WHAM! If I had let myself be blinded by her poisonous charm, I would have been stupid. She cheated on me...ME...the guy she said she loved. The guy who never got mad at her...the one who made her smile...the one who wiped away her tears...I certainly believe I deserved a better fate. It's just a good thing I found out what a snake she really is.

JANET: Did your mom lobotomize you this morning, Benny?

BENNY: I feel bad enough. Save the jokes.

JANET: Why should I save them? You are a joke.

BENNY: You don't know...

JANET: I do know! Unless we're talking about a new Ashley, one I never got to meet, you're way off base calling my friend a snake.

BENNY: I call them as I see 'em.

JANET: Then take off your glasses, Ump. It's strike three and you're out.

BENNY: And what does that mean?

JANET: You're always jumping to conclusions.

BENNY: Am not!

JANET: Oh, yes you are! And Ashley is tired of it.

BENNY: Good! So long as she keeps her distance from me, I could care less what she's tired of.

JANET: That's not true. I can tell you're still crazy about her.

BENNY: **(pause)** Of course I am. I love Ashley. She's the best thing that ever happened to me. But she cheated...kissed another guy! I can't just look the other way. I'll teach her a lesson, then when she comes crawling back...

JANET: I don't think that'll happen.

BENNY: Why not? She has to come back. She's a cheating two-timer, but she loves me. She'll come to her senses, eventually.

JANET: She WAS in love. I'm not so sure now.

BENNY: Oh, no. What do I do? I don't want to lose Ashley, but I can't let her do such a rotten thing to me. Why did I fall for such a mean, venomous snake?

JANET: It's unfathomable that you would refer to my best friend as a mean person.

BENNY: How would you describe her?

JANET: As the kind of person who traveled out of town on her birthday to watch your soccer game. As the kind of person who stayed up until three in the morning baking your home economics project because you had two tests to study for that night. Oh, and let's not forget that you had a full three weeks to complete the assignment. You just put it off, and then it was Ashley to the rescue. Or should I say, the venomous snake.

BENNY: Lay off the guilt trip. This is different. It involves another guy.

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