

NOBODY'S PERFECT

Ten-Minute Comedy Duet

by
Matt Thompson



Brooklyn Publishers, LLC

Toll-Free 888-473-8521

Fax 319-368-8011

Web www.brookpub.com

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SETTING: A table at a restaurant.

AT RISE: REED and DONNA sit in silence. They both smile at each other. REED picks up his coffee and slurps it. After DONNA looks at him, HE stops. Beat.

DONNA: So, how's your. . .

REED: I was over at the. . .

DONNA: What do you think of. . .

REED: Everybody tells me that. . .

DONNA: I love that song *Hillbilly Porkchops*. . .

REED: An Arabian Oryx is actually. . .

DONNA and REED: **(aside)** We both apologize.

DONNA: **(aside)** Cordially.

REED: **(aside)** We apologize cordially.

DONNA and REED: Sorry.

REED: Go ahead.

DONNA: No, please.

REED: I'm sorry.

DONNA: I don't usually go on blind dates.

REED: Neither do I.

DONNA: Well, there's a first for everything.

REED: Nice way of looking at things. You know that reminds me of a very unique story.

DONNA: **(aside)** I'm nervous, so I give him the floor with eagerness.

REED: **(aside)** I take the floor. I talk about my career.

DONNA: **(with disinterest, aside)** He talks about his career.

REED: Golderg and Riching are done with. A strong showing in the market and they're ours. Our company should make the Fortune 500 within two months.

DONNA: **(aside)** I fain to be interested.

REED: 200 stock shares.

DONNA: Uh-huh.

REED: A split in my 401K.

DONNA: Uh-huh.

REED: I'm moving up very fast in the company all right.

DONNA: Hmmm.

REED: **(aside)** She's impressed.

DONNA: **(aside)** I'm not impressed.

REED: **(aside)** We stop talking.

DONNA: **(aside)** We stop talking.

DONNA and REED: **(aside)** Silence.

DONNA: **(aside)** He talks about himself, again.

REED: **(aside)** I talk about myself. **(to DONNA)** Yada, yada, yada. **(aside)** She's very interested.

DONNA: **(aside)** I'm not interested.

REED: **(aside)** I tell her how much I make. **(to DONNA)** Yada, yada, yada.

DONNA: **(changing her tune; aside)** I'm impressed.

REED: **(aside)** She's impressed. We stop talking.

DONNA and REED: **(aside)** Silence.

REED: Robots made of aluminum are good at. . .

DONNA: Bak choy is very high in niacin. . .

REED: Have you ever tried octopus. . .

DONNA: I hear that Pitcharin Island is. . .

REED: I'm sorry I hope that you didn't think that. . .

DONNA: In Ecuador the official currency is the U.S. Dollar and. . .

REED: **(aside)** I apologize again. **(to DONNA)** Sorry.

DONNA: **(aside)** I apologize again, but with less patience. **(to REED)** Sorry.

REED: **(aside)** I compliment her on her appearance. **(to DONNA)** That dress really makes your eyes shine. You have beautiful features.

DONNA: **(aside)** I let him go on.

REED: Sure. I like the way you wear your hair. It's so. . .

DONNA: Up?

REED: Yeah.

DONNA and REED: **(aside)** We laugh. **(to each other)** Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha. . .

DONNA: **(aside)** I'm feeling a little better about this.

REED: **(aside)** I'm feeling a little better about this.

DONNA: You know that I can do some really amazing things with my lips.

REED: You don't say.

DONNA: **(aside)** So, I decided to go for it.

REED: **(aside)** I decide to go for it.

(REED begins to lean in for a kiss when DONNA stops him by making her lips into a fish. SHE emits a strange sound. REED stops in his tracks. SHE laughs, very annoying.)

REED: **(aside)** She laughs.

DONNA: **(aside)** I laugh. I lighten the mood.

REED: **(aside)** She ruins the mood.

DONNA: Anyhow, I'm sure you are repulsed by my strange lips maneuver.

REED: **(aside)** This is when I do what all men do. **(to DONNA)** No, I think it's really. . . cute. **(aside)** I lie.

DONNA: You do?

REED: **(aside)** I lie some more. **(to DONNA)** No, I think that it's very unique. It's very interesting. There aren't many woman in the world that can do. . . that.

DONNA and REED: **(aside)** More silence.

DONNA: You know the Gutenberg Press is what I did my Master's thesis on and. . .

REED: **(not paying attention)** What was that?

DONNA: Oh, nothing. I was just about to expatiate pedantically. Nobody likes that.

REED: Those were some pretty big words in that sentence. You're pretty brainy, huh?

DONNA: **(a little attitude)** You're pretty athletic huh?

REED: Well. . .

DONNA: I'm sorry. That was rude.

REED: Don't be sorry. I'm sorry. Please go on. **(aside)** I was rude. I need to give her the floor and stop talking about myself. I'm genuinely interested now.

DONNA: **(aside)** I'm genuinely interested in talking now. **(to REED)** You've heard of the Gutenberg Press? It's the basic version of the modern printing press. Johannes Gutenberg was a German goldsmith and inventor best known for the Gutenberg press, and innovative printing machine that used movable type.

REED: I thought the printing press was invented by Steve Guttenberg.

DONNA: Steve Guttenberg?

REED: The movie actor from the 80's. Steve Guttenberg. The Steve Guttenberg Printing Press. **(HE laughs. SHE does not, aside)** I told a joke. It was hilarious.

DONNA: **(aside)** It was stupid.

REED: **(aside)** All right, it was stupid.

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