NOBODY’S PERFECT

Ten-Minute Comedy Duet

by

Matt Thompson
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NOBODY’S PERFECT
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: Hmm.
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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