

# PRACTICE

## by Scott Mullen

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**PRACTICE***A Comedic Duet***by Scott Mullen**

**SYNOPSIS:** Tim awkwardly tries to convince Kate that they should go to the harvest dance together, even though they hardly know one another and Kate likes someone else. Tim's theory is that they are both inexperienced and can use the practice.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS***(1 female, 1 male)*

TIM (m) ..... Teen; A nervous young man.  
*(51 lines)*

KATE (f)..... Teen; A girl without much  
experience either. *(51 lines)*

**TIME:** Present day.

**SETTING:** A bench.

**PROPS**

- index cards
- a book

**DIRECTOR'S NOTES**

Though the bench is there to make it easy for them to face the audience, feel free to move them around during the play if you want.

**AT START:** *KATE sits on a park bench, reading a book. TIM watches KATE nervously. He finally walks over and sits next to her. He doesn't say anything. Finally, he pulls out some index cards. Looks at them. Shuffles them. Again. Sighs. Just as it starts to get really awkward, KATE looks at him.*

**KATE:** Do you want something?

**TIM:** Wait. I thought I knew what I was going to say, but I lost my place.

**KATE:** Just say it.

**TIM:** I need to start again.

*TIM tucks his index cards away and gets up and leaves. KATE watches him go. TIM comes back in. Sits next to her.*

**TIM:** Hi. My name is Tim.

**KATE:** I know who you are. Timmy Burke. You're in my English class.

**TIM:** Tim now.

**KATE:** Tim.

**TIM:** It sounds more mature.

**KATE:** Are you though?

**TIM:** What?

**KATE:** Mature?

**TIM:** I'm trying to be.

**KATE:** Okay.

**TIM:** Where was I? Rats. I need to start again.

*TIM gets up, and leaves. Comes back in. Sits down.*

**KATE:** This is very strange.

**TIM:** Hi. My name is Timmy—

**KATE:** I thought it was Tim.

**TIM:** It didn't sound like you liked it when it was Tim.

**KATE:** I'm just used to you always being Timmy.

**TIM:** So I'm Timmy.

**KATE:** You look like a Timmy.

**TIM:** Fine.

**KATE:** But you may be right.

**TIM:** What?

**KATE:** Tim does sound more mature.

**TIM:** Okay. I'm Tim.

**KATE:** What were you going to ask me?

**TIM:** ...I've lost my train of thought again. (*Gets up.*)

**KATE:** No. Don't go again. (*Too late. TIM'S gone.*) And there he goes.

*Then TIM'S back, tucking away his index cards again as he walks in. He sits next to her.*

**TIM:** Hi. I'm Tim.

**KATE:** Hi Tim. I'm Kate.

**TIM:** I was wondering if you wanted to go to the Harvest Dance with me.

**KATE:** That's what this is about?

**TIM:** I know we haven't talked much, but you seem like an interesting person and I believe we would have fun together. So what do you say?

**KATE:** Why me?

**TIM:** You seem like an interesting person and I believe we would have fun together.

**KATE:** Do you have that written on an index card?

**TIM:** Maybe.

**KATE:** You do.

**TIM:** I need an answer.

**KATE:** Why?

**TIM:** Because...I've thought about what to say if you said no. Or if you said yes.

**KATE:** What if I didn't say either? What if I just asked more questions? What would you say?

**TIM:** I don't know.

**KATE:** I need to go to the dance with someone I can hold a conversation with. Someone who can talk about anything, any time. Not someone who needs index cards. Keep the index cards in your pocket.

**TIM:** I get nervous.

**KATE:** Why?

**TIM:** I'm not good at this. I haven't done it much before.

**KATE:** Clearly.

**TIM:** I mean, I shouldn't be that nervous. It's not like I like you. I don't even know you. I mean, believe me, I don't think we're ever going to get married and have kids—I don't even think we'll have a second date.

**KATE:** Wow.

**TIM:** I mean, be honest. Look at me. Can you imagine us married?

**KATE:** No.

**TIM:** You said that really fast.

**KATE:** I can't.

**TIM:** Can you imagine us going to prom together someday?

**KATE:** No.

**TIM:** Can you imagine us dating? Being boyfriend/girlfriend? Drinking milkshakes while holding hands and walking down Main Street?

**KATE:** That's what you think a date is?

**TIM:** I like milkshakes.

**KATE:** No. I can't imagine doing that with you.

**TIM:** Do you have a boyfriend?

**KATE:** ...Not right now.

**TIM:** So it's perfect.

**KATE:** What?

**TIM:** We don't have any expectations. We have less than zero expectations. There's no pressure for you to be some perfect person because you're worried about doing something that makes me not like you. Because it doesn't matter! We're not going out again anyway. So will you go to the Harvest Dance with me?

**KATE:** No.

**TIM:** I don't understand.

**KATE:** What don't you understand? You said it yourself. There's no chemistry here. When you look at me, does your heart get all wiggly?

**TIM:** Not at all.

**KATE:** I look at you, and I feel nothing.

**TIM:** Again, that's perfect.

**KATE:** How is that perfect?

**TIM:** Have you ever had a boyfriend?

**KATE:** That's...none of your business.

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