

THE BAD DATE CHRONICLES

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BLUE TBD

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1	EXT. PORTLAND - NIGHT	1	
	Establishing shot of Portland, Oregon.		*
2	EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES - NIGHT	2	
	Establishing shot of the offices of the Richardson Review, located in an old warehouse turned into modern office space.		
3	INT. ALLISON'S OFFICE - NIGHT	3	*
	The office of the head of the Richards Review is sleekly elegant and no-nonsense. Two people are in the guest chairs in front of a large desk.		* * *
	One is LEIGH RYNESS (late 20's), wholesome and pretty but seems to go out of her way to hide that. Seated in the other is ERIN WEATHERLY, She is late 20s, cute in a bookish way.		* * *
	Erin glances at her watch nervously.		*
	ERIN		*
	Where is Allison? You're going to be late.		* *
	LEIGH		*
	Erin, relax. The restaurant is right around the corner. I have plenty of time.		* * * *
	ERIN		*
	(overly enthusiastic)		*
	Leigh, you have to go home and change first. Take the blue sweater from my closet. Oh! And the yellow silk blouse. Blue sweater, yellow silk blouse, you can't go wrong.		* * * * * *
	LEIGH		*
	What's wrong with what I'm wearing?		
	ERIN		*
	You're going on a date. Your first date since you broke up with...		*
	Leigh puts her hands over her ears, as if to say "I can't hear you!"		* *
	LEIGH		*
	Ahhh! Don't say it.		*

ERIN
Since you broke up with He Who
Shall Not Be Named.

Leigh puts down her hands. *

LEIGH
Thank you.

ERIN
You should look like you're at
least trying. Not trying too hard.
Trying just the right amount. Oh
this is so exciting. Why aren't
you more excited? *

LEIGH
Because it's my first date since I
broke up with... *

They both put their hands to their ears as if to say "I can't
hear you." *

LEIGH (CONT'D)
I'm just keeping expectations low. *

Their boss ALLISON RICHARDS comes into the office and sits
behind the desk. She is in her 40s and is as sleekly elegant
and no-nonsense as her office. *

LEIGH (CONT'D)
Hi, Allison. *

ALLISON
Sorry I'm late. I was stuck on a
call with some advertisers
explaining how The Richards Review
is a serious, hard-hitting online
news magazine that deserves
respect. *

(deep breath)

But now I'm here and my full
attention is on you two as you are
pitching me ideas for... *

LEIGH
(meekly)
The Bad Date Chronicles. *

ERIN
(same)
The Foodie Nation Blog. *

ALLISON

(beat - breath)

A serious online news magazine that
also has a softer, human side.
What have you got?

Leigh and Erin prepare to start their pitches.

4 EXT. PETERS POST OFFICES - NIGHT

4

Establishing shot of the Peters Post headquarters, which is
similar to the Richards Review building.

INT. MILO'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The office of the head of The Peters Post is much more casual
than Allison's, guy-centric complete with a basketball hoop
on the door.

CONNER McMILLAN, 30, is cute, well-groomed, and stylishly
dressed and checking his look in a mirror on the wall. BRAD
IRWIN, a jock in his early 30s, is very casually dressed in
ratty jeans and a T-shirt and is shooting a Nerf style ball
into the hoop.

BRAD

Conner, all I'm saying is I think
you're over-dressed.

CONNER

It's our first date.

BRAD

Exactly. You're setting the bar
way too high. Start like that and
by your third date you'll need a
tuxedo.

CONNER

Brad, she knows I'm the Styles and
Trends editor for The Peters Post.
I have to look good. I can't show
up wearing ratty jeans and a T-
shirt.

Brad looks down at his own clothes.

BRAD

Hey! I look good.

CONNER

For the editor of the sports blog,
yeah.

Their boss MILO PETERS enters drinking a cup of coffee, which he sets on his desk. He is in his forties, handsome, and casual but very competitive.

MILO

Conner and Brad! My two favorite editors.

CONNER

You say that to all the editors, Milo.

MILO

Yes, I do. But with you two I actually mean it. Just don't tell Susan on the news desk. It'll break her heart. Conner, looking good, my friend.

CONNER

(point proven)
Thank you.
(to Brad)
See?

BRAD

Milo, don't you think he's overdressed for a first date?

MILO

No. The Style guy has to look stylish. Otherwise he's the sports guy.

Conner laughs. Brad isn't amused.

BRAD

Ha ha. I still say you're going to regret wearing those nice clothes.

Brad shoots the basketball at the hoop but it goes awry, hitting the cup of coffee, which in turn spills all over Conner. There is a moment of silence while they all look at Conner's ruined clothes.

BRAD (CONT'D)

(meekly)
Told ya.

Brad tries a weak smile. This time it's Conner that isn't amused.

INT. ALLISON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Leigh and Erin are pitching stories to Allison.

ALLISON
(to Erin)
Erin, let's bump the Top 10
Barbecue places to this week.
Those lists are click bait.

ERIN
Got it.

ALLISON
Leigh?

LEIGH
I've got two really good
submissions to lead on this week's
Bad Date Chronicles. One is from
Becky, whose date showed up with
his mother. The second is from
Steven, who forgot to put the car
in park and it rolled into the
lake.

ALLISON
That is a tough choice but... let's
go with the car in the lake. It'll
make a better headline.

LEIGH
Okay, we'll put the mom story below
the fold.

ERIN
It's so depressing. You know what
we need? A True Love blog to
balance out your Bad Date
Chronicles.

ALLISON
True love? We don't do fiction
here at The Richards Review.

LEIGH
She's right, Erin. Nobody believes
in that hearts and flowers stuff
anymore.

ERIN
 Says the woman who is going out on
 a date tonight.

ALLISON
 A date? Oh, then I better let you
 get out of here so you can go home
 and change.

ERIN
 (to Leigh)
 See?
 (to Allison)
 She's got a date with the style and
 trends editor...

Leigh tries to stop her.

LEIGH
 Erin!!

ERIN
 ...over at the Peters Post.

ALLISON
 (angry)
 The Peters Post?

LEIGH
 (to Erin)
 Now you did it.

They wait for the barrage.

5 INT. MILO'S OFFICE - NIGHT

5

Back in Milo's office, Conner is now wearing the ratty jeans
 and T-shirt that Brad was wearing and Brad is in his gym
 clothes - shorts and a basketball jersey - looking at
 Conner's phone. Milo is at his desk.

CONNER
 I can't go on a date like this!

BRAD

Why not?

CONNER

I look like a roadie for a hair metal band.

BRAD

Maybe she likes music.

MILO

Why don't you just go home and change?

CONNER

I don't have time. The restaurant is all the way across town so I'm already going to be late. How's my phone?

BRAD

(hands it back to Conner)
Coffee got it, too. It's flickering on and off. Sorry, dude.

MILO

Use the one on the desk.

CONNER

Her number is my contacts.

BRAD

Just explain it to her. You'll probably have a good laugh over it.

CONNER

Brad, she edits a column called The Bad Date Chronicles. I show up looking like this and I'm going to be on the front page.

MILO

The Bad Date Chronicles? Wait, wait, wait. Isn't that on The Richards Review?

BRAD

Uh-oh.

MILO

Do not get me started about Allison Richards!

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QUICK CUT TO:

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8 INT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES HALLWAY - NIGHT

8

Leigh and Erin are being followed by Allison down the hall.

ALLISON

You know who Milo Peters stole his
entire idea from, don't you?

Leigh and Erin have heard this rant before.

LEIGH

You.

ALLISON

Me! I hired him. I trained him.
I mentored him! And then he
stabbed me in the back and went off
to do that ridiculous Peters Post.

*

QUICK CUT TO:

9 INT. PETERS POST OFFICES HALLWAY - NIGHT

9

Milo is following Brad and Conner

*

MILO

She still tells people that I stole
the idea for The Peters Post from
her. Like the idea of doing an
online magazine is some brilliant
thing that nobody ever thought of.

CONNER

I am so late!

*

*

MILO

Conner, do not give this woman any
ammunition to use against you on
her Bad Date Chronicles.

(looks at him)

Any more ammunition.

*
*

CONNER

Thank you. I feel much better now.

He turns and rushes off. Brad and Milo watch him go.

BRAD

This is not going to end well.

MILO

(shakes his head)

Dead man walking.

They nod and head in opposite directions.

10

INT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES HALLWAY - NIGHT

10

Leigh, Erin, and Allison nearing the end of the hall.

ALLISON

Don't reveal any company secrets.
But get him to reveal his.

LEIGH

I just want to get out of this
alive.

*

ERIN

Oh stop. It'll be fine. You won't
wind up on the Bad Date Chronicles!

QUICK CUT TO:

11

INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

11

Erin is sitting on the couch watching TV as Leigh comes in.
Her hair is all wet, as is the now ruined yellow silk blouse,
and the sleeve of the blue sweater looks as though it has
been burned partially away.

ERIN
What happened?!

Leigh sits by Erin on the couch.

LEIGH
You aren't going to believe this...

QUICK CUT TO:

12

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

12

Leigh is standing out in front of a nice restaurant in the yellow blouse and blue sweater. She looks at her watch.

LEIGH (V.O.)
First, he's late. Really late.

ERIN (V.O.)
And he didn't call you?

LEIGH (V.O.)
No. I was just getting ready to leave when he rushes up...

Conner rushes up wearing the bad t-shirt and ratty jeans. We see him explaining but continue to hear Leigh and Erin.

ERIN (V.O.)
I thought he was the style editor.

LEIGH (V.O.)
He said something about coffee and switching clothes with his friend.

*
*

We switch focus to Conner and Leigh on the date.

CONNER
I'm sorry I'm late. I would've called, but my phone died.

He shows Leigh the phone, which appears to be working fine.

LEIGH
Looks okay to me.

Conner looks at his phone, a bit confused.

ERIN (V.O.)
Why would he say that and then show you the phone?

LEIGH (V.O.)
I don't know. But that was just
the start of it.

Conner and Leigh head into the restaurant.

13 INT. RESTAURANT LOBBY - NIGHT

13

Conner is arguing with the Maitre 'd while Leigh stands off
to the side uncomfortably.

ERIN (V.O.)
He didn't make a reservation?

The Maitre 'd shakes his head and points.

LEIGH (V.O.)
Apparently not. We had to wait at
the bar for 45 minutes.

They head toward the bar.

14 INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

14

Leigh now has a towel and is drying her hair. The yellow
blouse and blue sweater have been replaced with a sweatshirt.

ERIN
Why didn't you go someplace else?

LEIGH
He said it was the hottest
restaurant in town and...

ERIN
Yuck. Typical trends editor.

LEIGH
Once we got to the table things
started to go okay.

ERIN
Because all great love stories
start with things going "okay."

LEIGH
You know what I mean. I didn't
feel any butterflies but he's
charming and smart. It was going
fine. And then...

Leigh shakes her head.

15 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT 15

Leigh and Conner are enjoying a first course - a candle burns romantically on table between them.

CONNER
This is so good. Try it!

LEIGH
Oh, that's okay. I have plenty.

CONNER
Seriously. This is life-changing.

He holds out his plate to her just as she is reaching for her drink. They collide and the candle falls over and heads directly toward the sleeve of her blue sweater.

We FREEZE there for a second.

16 INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 16

Leigh holds out the charred sweater to Erin.

LEIGH
Sorry.

ERIN
He set you on fire?!

LEIGH
Yes, but in his defense he did put me out quickly.

Erin's eyes get big as she takes the sweater.

17 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT 17

While we don't see Leigh on fire, we see Conner's reaction. He jumps up, grabs a pitcher of ice water from a passing waiter, and empties it in Leigh's direction. *

18 INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 18

Leigh holds out the ruined yellow silk blouse to Erin.

LEIGH
Sorry.

Erin takes the blouse.

19 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

19

A singed and wet Leigh stands there in shock.

CONNER

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

LEIGH

I'm going to go find some paper towels and... blot...

CONNER

Do you need help?

LEIGH

No, no. No... Thank you.

Leigh heads off toward the restroom.

20 INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

20

Leigh and Erin are still on the sofa.

ERIN

(tries to smile)

Well, look at it this way. You can say you felt a spark.

LEIGH

Yeah, it's a little too soon for fire jokes.

ERIN

(tries not to smile)

Sorry.

LEIGH

Especially since I'm not done with the story yet.

ERIN

Don't tell me it gets worse?

Leigh nods.

21 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

21

Leigh comes back to the table, a little less wet, still blotting at herself with paper towels. She stops short and we PULL BACK to reveal that Conner is not there.

ERIN (V.O.)

He left?!

Leigh sits at the table.

LEIGH (V.O.)

At first I thought he was in the bathroom. Or maybe making a call on his "broken" phone. But he never came back, so...

ERIN (V.O.)

No...

LEIGH (V.O.)

Yes...

A waiter approaches the table. Leigh sighs and reluctantly hands him a credit card.

LEIGH (V.O.)

I had to pay the whole bill.

*

The waiter leaves and Leigh puts her head in her hands.

22

INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

22

Leigh and Erin on the couch.

ERIN

Anything else? Did he mug you on your way back to the car?

LEIGH

No, that's it.

ERIN

You're going to make him reimburse you, right? Reimburse us?

LEIGH

No. I just want to dry off, accept the fact that I'm never going to date again, and eat my weight in ice cream.

ERIN

Okay, well, I'll admit that this was not a great re-entry into the dating pool but on the other hand maybe it's an improvement over your break up with...

Again Leigh puts her hands to her ears. *

LEIGH
Ahhhh! Don't say it. *

ERIN
(sighs)
The Worst Person Who Ever Lived. *

Leigh puts down her hands. *

LEIGH
Thank you. And how awful is it
that being set on fire is better
than my last serious relationship?

ERIN
Look at it this way: now you have
your own Bad Date Chronicle instead
of just editing other peoples'.

LEIGH
I'm not going to put this on the
site. *

ERIN
Um, yeah you are! You're going
crush every other bad date, ever.

LEIGH
It's not a competition.

ERIN
It should be, because you'd win.

Erin grabs a nearby laptop computer and hands it to Leigh. *

ERIN (CONT'D)
Come on. This is so much better
than a car in a lake. *

Leigh looks at the laptop suspiciously but finally shrugs and
opens it to begin writing. *

Establishing shot of the Peters Post headquarters.

24

INT. CONNER AND BRAD'S OFFICE - DAY

24

Conner and Brad's office is definitely a "guy" space,
complete with a basketball hoop on the door just like Milo's.
Brad is at his desk on the computer when Conner walks in.

*
*
*

BRAD

Hey! How was the big date?

*
*

CONNER

(sighs and sits)
It was a disaster.

*
*
*

(MORE)

Blue Rev. (03/28/16)

14.

CONNER (CONT'D)

*

*

25 EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

25

Conner rushes up to Leigh, who is outside the restaurant.

CONNER (V.O.)
My car wouldn't start, so I take a
cab and race over there...

Leigh sees him and gives him an up and down look that clearly indicates she is not impressed by his clothes.

LEIGH
It's okay. You look... fine...

CONNER
I'm sorry I'm late. I would've
called, but my phone died.

He takes his phone out of his pocket and glances at it - a black screen of nothing. As he turns it toward Leigh it flickers on.

LEIGH
Looks okay to me.

By the time Conner turns it back around to look at it, it is back to the black screen of nothing. He is confused.

BRAD (V.O.)
Why would she say it looked fine if
it was obviously not?

CONNER (V.O.)
I don't know. But that was just
the start of it.

Conner and Leigh head into the restaurant.

26 INT. RESTAURANT LOBBY - NIGHT

26

Conner is arguing with the Maitre 'd while Leigh stands off to the side uncomfortably.

CONNER (V.O.)
Julian, the restaurant critic, said
he was going to set up a
reservation for me at Il Tempo.

BRAD (V.O.)
And he didn't?

The Maitre 'd shakes his head and points.

CONNER (V.O.)
I guess not. We waited in the bar
for at least half an hour.

27 INT. CONNER AND BRAD'S OFFICE - DAY

27

Conner and Brad.

BRAD
Why didn't you go somewhere else?

CONNER
Because I didn't have a car and I
wasn't going to ask her to drive.
That would've been humiliating.
Besides, when we got seated and
were able to talk, she was funny
and smart and... it wasn't bad.

BRAD
Yeah. Here's a tip. When you're
telling your buddy about the hot
date you had the night before, you
probably shouldn't include the
phrase "it wasn't bad."

CONNER
Well... it definitely got hotter...

QUICK CUT TO:

28 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

28

Once again with Leigh and Conner at the table and the candle.

CONNER
This is delicious. Try it.

LEIGH
Oh that's okay. I have plenty.

CONNER
Seriously. This is life-changing.

He holds out his plate to her just as she is reaching for her
drink. In Conner's version, it appears to be much more
Leigh's fault but still the end result is the same... the
candle falls over and heads directly toward her sleeve.

We FREEZE there for a second.

29 INT. CONNER AND BRAD'S OFFICE - DAY

29

Brad is looking at him blankly.

BRAD

(beat)

She set herself on fire?

Conner nods. There is a pause and then Brad bursts out laughing. Conner rolls his eyes

BRAD (CONT'D)

Oh man... I've had some girls try to get out of a date with me but none of them have ever set themselves on fire!

He continues laughing. Conner just shakes his head.

30 INT. MEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

30

Conner comes into the private bathroom and locks the door.

CONNER (V.O.)

I'm totally freaked out now. I'm convinced that this woman is going to press charges against me or something. So I go to the bathroom to splash some water on my face...

BRAD (V.O.)

I'm sure the waiter would've given you another pitcher.

CONNER (V.O.)

Shut up. So I manage to not hyperventilate and then...

Conner goes to open the door and it won't - it is stuck. He pulls and pulls and finally the knob comes off in his hand.

31 INT. CONNER AND BRAD'S OFFICE - DAY

31

Conner and Brad.

BRAD

(laughing again)

You got locked in the bathroom?!

CONNER

By the time I got out, she was gone. And to make things worse... She paid.

BRAD

Oh dude...

CONNER

I was going to call her and explain but her contact info was in my phone and the phone wasn't working and so I just crashed and figured I'd deal with it this morning.

Milo runs in, out of breath, carrying a tablet computer.

MILO

Conner, I have been trying to call you for an hour!

CONNER

What's going on?

MILO

The whole world is looking for you.

CONNER

What? Why?

MILO

Because of how your date went last night.

CONNER

How do you know how my date went?

MILO

The whole world knows how your date went.

Milo hands Conner the tablet and we see The Bad Date Chronicles on it. The headline is: FIRE AND ICE.

CONNER

(reads)

"He showed up an hour late looking like he had just come from playing video games in his mother's basement..." Oh, no...

MILO

We've gotten calls from newspapers, websites, TV...

BRAD

You've gone viral, dude!

Brad holds up his hand for a high-five which he doesn't get.

CONNER

She didn't use my name, how...

MILO

(grabs the tablet back)

"My date was with Conrad, a lifestyle and trends editor for an online magazine..." It wasn't hard to crack the code.

CONNER

That is not what happened! What do I do?

BRAD

Change your name and move to another state?

Conner shakes his head and starts for the door.

CONNER

I have to go talk to her. Convince her to take it down. Post a retraction or something.

BRAD

Excellent idea. Yes. Do that.

Brad follows him.

CONNER

Where are *you* going?

BRAD

You were late to dinner and she set herself on fire. I can't miss what she's going to do for an encore.

Conner deliberates then sighs and nods. They leave.

33

EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES - DAY

33

Conner and Brad are walking toward the Richards Review building just as Leigh and Erin come out of it.

CONNER

Leigh?

LEIGH

(shocked)

Conner?

ERIN

Conner! You have a lot of nerve...

BRAD

He's got nerve? She's the one who made up stuff about their date and broadcast it to the world.

ERIN

Who are you?

BRAD

I'm his friend, Brad. Who are you? *

ERIN

I'm *her* friend, Erin.

BRAD

(angry)

Well, it's nice to meet you, Erin.

ERIN

(ditto)

It's nice to meet you too, Brad.

There is silence for a moment.

LEIGH

Are you two done?

They nod.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

(to Conner)

What does he mean I made stuff up?

CONNER

What you posted on your site.
That's not how it happened.

LEIGH

I was there. I was the one on fire, remember?

CONNER

I feel terrible but there were extenuating circumstances...

LEIGH

Look, I didn't use your name...

CONNER

But everyone knows it's me. This could affect my job... my life! My mother called me from Ohio to ask what she had done wrong that made me turn out like this.

LEIGH

(feels a little bad)
Oh, really? I'm sorry...

ERIN

Don't be sorry! This was his fault, Leigh.

BRAD

It was not his fault. You haven't heard his side of it.

ERIN

Well, he has a column on The Peters Post. Why doesn't he go see if the truth is "trending?"

LEIGH

Oh, no, I don't think...

BRAD

Okay, he will!

CONNER

Well, maybe we could just...

BRAD

Come on, Conner! It's time to fight fire with fire. See what I did there?

Brad grabs Conner and pulls him away.

ERIN

Funny. Real funny. We'll just see who has the last laugh!

Erin grabs Leigh and drags her away. Leigh glances back over her shoulder to watch Conner and Brad walking away and then Conner does the same but they don't catch each other's eye.

34 EXT. PETERS POST OFFICES - DAY 34

Establishing shot of The Peters Post.

35 INT. CONNER AND BRAD'S OFFICE - DAY 35

Conner is at the computer while Brad stands behind him.

BRAD

Put something in there about how all she could think about is herself. "Oh, I can't believe he made me wait. Oh, I'm on fire."

CONNER

I'm not going to say that.

Brad pulls out his tablet and reads from Leigh's blog post.

BRAD

"And he didn't call to explain what had happened. Maybe he can't get good cell service in his mother's basement."

Conner thinks about it for a moment and starts typing.

CONNER

"Perhaps if she had taken a minute to listen to my side we could have had a good story to laugh about later but instead she jumped to conclusions so she could have a good story for her Chronicles now."

BRAD

Oh, that's good. More of that.

Brad keeps watching Conner type.

36 EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES - LATER 36

Establishing shot of the Richards Review offices.

37

INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S OFFICE - DAY

37

Erin is sitting at her computer while Leigh paces back and forth behind her, worried, chewing a fingernail. Every few seconds Erin hits a button on the keyboard. After the third or fourth time, Leigh snaps.

LEIGH
Stop hitting refresh!

ERIN
Well, how else are we going to know
if he posts something?

The phone on Leigh's desk rings. Then her cell phone rings. Then it buzzes and rings. Then the computer dings to say a new email has been received.

LEIGH
I think we'll know. Refresh,
refresh, refresh!

Erin hits refresh and Leigh crowds in to read.

ERIN
Oh, no he did NOT call you self-
absorbed.

LEIGH
"...the handle came off the
bathroom door..." Well, I didn't
know that.

ERIN
"Jumped to conclusions!?"

LEIGH
Well, he has a point, I guess.

ERIN
No, he doesn't. He's the bad guy.

LEIGH
If what he's saying is true, then
there is no bad guy.

ERIN
You need to write a rebuttal.

LEIGH
No.

ERIN
You can't let him have the last
word!

LEIGH
Yes, I can. I'm putting an end to
this right now.

She heads for the door.

38 EXT. PETERS POST OFFICES - NIGHT 38

Establishing shot of The Peters Post.

39 INT. CONNER AND BRAD'S OFFICE - NIGHT 39

Conner is sitting at his computer reading emails when there is a knock on the door - Leigh is standing there. Conner stands up quickly.

CONNER
Hey.

LEIGH
Hey. Sorry to barge in
unannounced.

CONNER
It's okay. How did you get back
here?

LEIGH
The receptionist read both of our
columns. She's taking my side.

CONNER
(smiles)
Got it. Do you want to sit...

LEIGH
No, that's okay, I just... Listen,
I read your post. You were
actually nicer about the whole
thing than I thought you'd be.

CONNER
I called you self-absorbed and
clueless.

LEIGH
Well, I called you vain and
entitled, so...
(MORE)

LEIGH (CONT'D)

I just wanted to apologize for jumping to conclusions about what happened. I should've let you explain.

CONNER

It's okay. And I apologize for... well, everything.

LEIGH

Apology accepted.

She holds out her hand.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

Truce?

He shakes it.

CONNER

Truce.

LEIGH

Okay... So I'm going to go back to chronicling other people's bad dates...

CONNER

And I'll go back to writing about the latest trendy thing that everyone will forget about by tomorrow afternoon.

LEIGH

And we can both just forget this ever happened.

CONNER

Sounds like a plan to me.

There is a brief, uncomfortable pause.

LEIGH

Well... I better go.

CONNER

Thanks for stopping by.

LEIGH

Good night.

She heads off and Conner watches her go, considering.

40 EXT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 40

Establishing shot of Leigh and Erin's apartment building.

41 INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 41

Erin is on the sofa looking at her laptop as Leigh enters.

ERIN

Hey. How'd it go?

LEIGH

It was fine. We made peace.

ERIN

You're a much better person than I am because I'm still ready for war. Nobody messes with my friends. I've been replying to comments on his post for hours just to try to work out some aggression.

*

LEIGH

Just let it go. If I can, you can.

Leigh shuts the laptop for Erin and heads out of the room.

ERIN

You're right. Absolutely right.

Erin sits there for a moment and then opens the laptop again.

LEIGH (O.S.)

You've already opened the laptop again, haven't you?

ERIN

(distracted)

Yeah.

Erin reads one aloud, quietly to herself.

ERIN (CONT'D)

"Sounds like this Bad Date Chronicle girl..."

(shakes her head)

"Needs to go out on a date with a real man."

(reads aloud as she types)

(MORE)

ERIN (CONT'D)

"I guess I can't expect more from someone with a screen name of muscleman1998, but maybe if you got out of the gym every now and then you'd be able to deal with real women instead of just girls.
Signed FoodieFan88."

*
*

She hits send, proud of her zinger, and then sets the laptop down on the sofa so she can grab a bottle of water off of a nearby table. Before she can get back, there is a "ding."
Erin returns to the sofa and picks up the laptop.

*

ERIN (CONT'D)

Private chat?
(shrugs)
Okay, SingleSurfer87, what do you want to say to me?

*
*
*
*
*

She hits a button on the computer.

*

ERIN (CONT'D)

(reads aloud)
"FoodieFan88, I couldn't agree more. Men like muscleman1988 give men a bad name. SingleSurfer87. PS. I'm a fan of food, too. What's your favorite? Italian, Mexican, Chinese?"

*
*
*
*

Erin smiles and then types.

ERIN (CONT'D)

(reads as she types)
"SingleSurfer87, all of the above!"

*

She hits send and sets the laptop aside again but it "dings" almost right away. She smiles and picks it back up.

42

EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES - DAY

42

Establishing shot of the Richards Review office building.

43

INT. ALLISON'S OFFICE - DAY

43

Allison is taking a red pen to a piece of paper when the phone rings.

*

ALLISON
(answers phone)
Allison Richards.

QUICK CUT TO:

44 INT. MILO'S OFFICE - DAY

44

Milo is on the other end of the line.

*

We begin INTERCUTTING between the two of them on the phone.

MILO

You still answer your own phone,
huh? Trying to prove you're a
woman of the people, Allison?

Allison knows who it is instantly and isn't pleased.

ALLISON

Milo Peters! How are things over
at that little blog of yours?

MILO

Not so little anymore. One of our
posts just hit 15 million views.

ALLISON

(tries to be cool)
Really? I didn't know that many
people in your target audience
could read.

MILO

(smiles)
About a million more than yours,
apparently. Seems like people are
siding with my Trends guy over your
Bad Date woman.

ALLISON

No accounting for taste.

MILO

(laughs)
Same old Allison. Beautiful but
ruthless.

ALLISON

(rolls her eyes)
Same old, Milo. Do women actually
fall for that kind of line?

MILO

You did.

Allison sits up straight and looks around as if someone could
overhear.

ALLISON

(whispers)
Once. We went out on one date and
it was horrible.

MILO
It wasn't that bad.

ALLISON
I've had surgery that wasn't as painful. Can I help you with something, Milo?

MILO
Actually I was thinking we could help each other.

ALLISON
(beat)
I'm listening.

MILO
It's obvious that these posts are connecting with people. I'm not going to lie, 15 million is the biggest thing we've ever seen and I figure 14 million is for you, too.

ALLISON
I can neither confirm or deny that.

MILO
You just confirmed it by saying that. So it seems like it's in our mutual best interest to find a way to keep this going.

ALLISON
(intrigued)
What did you have in mind?

QUICK CUT TO:

45 INT. ALLISON'S OFFICE - LATER

45

Leigh is sitting in a chair in Allison's office while Allison paces around, excited - or at least her version of excited, which is still tightly controlled.

LEIGH
You want me to what?

ALLISON
Go out with him again. Like a do over.

LEIGH
 (incredulous)
 A do over?

QUICK CUT TO:

46 INT. MILO'S OFFICE - DAY 46

A similar scene is playing out in Milo's office, with Conner seated and Milo up and about, shooting foam basketballs into the hoop on his door.

MILO
 Yes, and then you both write it up
 for your respective columns.

CONNER
 You want me to review my date?

MILO
 Exactly. It'll be like a Rashomon
 kind of thing. The same story told
 from two different points of view.
 It'll be huge!

QUICK CUT TO:

47 INT. ALLISON'S OFFICE - DAY 47

Leigh and Allison.

ALLISON
 This has been the biggest thing
 ever for the Richards Review so can
 you imagine what Date Number Two is
 going to be like?

LEIGH
 I don't think I've recovered from
 Date Number One.

ALLISON
 Oh please. For 14 million views
 I'll set the building on fire.

QUICK CUT TO:

48 INT. MILO'S OFFICE - DAY 48

Conner and Milo continue.

CONNER

I just want to get this straight.
You, my boss, want me, your
employee, to date someone... for
work?

MILO

I'm not asking you to marry her,
just go out to dinner once or
twice.

CONNER

Wait. What? Twice?

QUICK CUT TO:

49

INT. ALLISON'S OFFICE - DAY

49

Leigh and Allison continue.

ALLISON

Or three times. Let's make it
three times.

LEIGH

You want me to go out on *three*
dates with him?

ALLISON

Leigh, look at it like a public
service. Your bad date experiences
are helping people.

LEIGH

How?

ALLISON

They'll think they had a bad date
but then look at yours and feel
immediately better about
themselves.

Leigh shakes her head.

50

INT. MILO'S OFFICE - DAY

50

Milo and Conner.

MILO

Besides, Conner, this is the kind
of thing that can make your career.
(MORE)

MILO (CONT'D)

I mean, come on! You're Styles and Trends and this is definitely trending! We're talking national attention, here.

*
*
*
*

Conner hadn't considered that.

51

INT. ALLISON'S OFFICE - DAY

51

Leigh and Allison.

ALLISON

You don't want to be editing The Bad Date Chronicles for the rest of your life, do you? This could help you get to the next level.

*
*
*

LEIGH

I want to be a news editor. Serious stuff. I don't see how this gets me any closer to that.

*
*
*

ALLISON

Well, you just happen to be talking to someone who hires news editors.

*
*
*

LEIGH

You mean, you'd consider giving me...

*
*
*

ALLISON

Get me another 14 million views and I'll consider giving you my car.

*
*
*

LEIGH

(sighs)
Well...

*
*
*

ALLISON

Perfect. It's settled. He'll call you.

Leigh is aghast.

52

INT. MILO'S OFFICE - DAY

52

Conner and Milo continue.

MILO

She's expecting your call.

Conner is equally aghast.

53

EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES ROOFTOP - DAY

53

The rooftop of the Richards Review building is not a fancy affair, but there are a couple of tables up there that people use for eating lunch. Erin is at one of them on her tablet computer, smiling as she types.

This time instead of her reading the online chat aloud we get to see them...

*

They are marked PRIVATE CHAT.

*

FOODIEFAN88: Did you see the comment from JUNEBRIDE1982?

*

SINGLESURFER87: No. What did it say?

FOODIEFAN88: Most of the time women are to blame for bad dates.

*

SINGLESURFER87: Really? Are we sure it wasn't MUSCLEMAN1988 in disguise?

Erin laughs.

FOODIEFAN88: Entirely possible.

*

Leigh comes onto the roof and Erin quickly hides the chat application.

LEIGH

You're not going to believe this.

QUICK CUT TO:

54 INT. CONNER AND BRAD'S OFFICE - DAY 54

Conner and Brad are sitting at their respective desks.

BRAD

I don't believe it. Are you going to do it?

CONNER

I don't know if I have any choice.

QUICK CUT TO:

55 EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES ROOFTOP - DAY 55

Leigh and Erin.

ERIN

She can't *make you* go out on a date with him.

LEIGH

Three dates. And yes she can, she's my boss.

QUICK CUT TO:

56 INT. CONNER AND BRAD'S OFFICE - DAY 56

Conner and Brad.

CONNER

I mean, I'd love for my career to be bigger but I don't know if this is the way I want it to happen.

*
*
*

BRAD

Well, maybe it won't be so bad.
You said you kind of made up with
her, right?

*

QUICK CUT TO:

57 EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES ROOFTOP - DAY

57

Leigh and Erin.

LEIGH

I only went over there because I
was convinced I'd never have to see
him again.

ERIN

This is crazy. Now you have to go
have bad dates with this guy?

LEIGH

What do you mean "bad" dates?

QUICK CUT TO:

58 INT. CONNER AND BRAD'S OFFICE - DAY

58

Conner and Brad.

BRAD

Because good dates are boring.
Nobody wants to read about that.

CONNER

So not only do I have to see her
again but I have to make sure that
we both have a terrible time again?

Brad shrugs as if to say "what are you gonna do?"

59 EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES ROOFTOP - DAY

59

Erin pats Leigh on the shoulder as she walks toward the door
leading back into the building.

ERIN

It's not called the Good Date
Chronicles...

Erin leaves Leigh alone to be miserable.

60 EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY 60

Establishing shot of a coffee shop in the business district.

61 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY 61

Allison is sitting at a table by herself at a coffee shop, reviewing some work on her tablet. Milo walks up and sits down to join her.

MILO

You are such a creature of habit.
Every day, the same time, the same
coffee shop, the same coffee I'm
guessing.

ALLISON

(beat - defensive)
I don't come here every day.

MILO

Allison, please. I worked with you
every day for two years, do you
think there's anything I don't know
about you?

ALLISON

What do you want, Milo?

MILO

Just checking in, seeing if you're
ready for the big date tonight.

ALLISON

(nonchalant)
Oh, is that tonight?

MILO

(smiles)
Why yes, yes it is. Let me guess.
You had forgotten all about it.

ALLISON

Totally slipped my mind.

MILO

Okay, well, maybe we need to make
it a little more interesting for
you then.

ALLISON

(beat)
Go on...

MILO
I was thinking a little wager.
Whoever gets the most post views
wins.

ALLISON
Wins what?

MILO
(sits back)
One dollar.

ALLISON
Times a little tough over at The
Peters Post?

MILO
It's symbolic. I think losing will
make you crazy no matter how much
it is.

ALLISON
(beat)
Okay. You're on.

They shake on it.

MILO
But no interference.

ALLISON
What do you mean?

MILO
It's in both of our interest for
these dates to go poorly but
whatever happens, happens. We stay
out of it.

ALLISON
(nods)
Deal. Do you know where they're
going tonight?

MILO
It's the do-over date so they're
going back to the scene of the
crime - Il Tempo.

ALLISON
Whose idea was that?

Milo just smiles and gets up to leave.

MILO
I'd like my dollar to be a crisp,
new bill please.

He walks away. Allison sits there for a moment, doing some mental calculations, and then dials her phone.

ALLISON
Hi. I need the number for Il Tempo
restaurant, please.

She smiles as she waits to be connected.

62 EXT. CONNER'S HOUSE - NIGHT 62

Establishing shot of Conner's house.

63 INT. CONNER'S KITCHEN - NIGHT 63

Brad is rummaging around in Conner's refrigerator.

BRAD
You have nothing to eat.

CONNER (O.S.)
You invited yourself over. You
should've brought your own food.

Conner enters the kitchen, looking dapper, holding two ties.

CONNER (CONT'D)
Which tie?

BRAD
For what? The job interview you're
going to have to go on if you mess
this thing up?

CONNER
How is that helpful?

Brad points at one of the ties and then goes to sit at the kitchen table while Conner tries to use his reflection in the toaster to tie it.

BRAD
Try to relax. Just be yourself.

CONNER
You think that'll work?

BRAD

Oh no. It's going to be a train wreck. But at least you'll have something good to write about afterward.

CONNER

You always know just what to say.

BRAD

Look, maybe if absolutely nothing else, you just view this as practice, you know? It's been a long time since Amy.

That name visibly affects Conner.

CONNER

It takes awhile to get over having your heart stomped on.

BRAD

But now you're dating, so that's progress.

CONNER

I'm not dating. I'm being forced by my boss to go to dinner with a woman.

(joking)

I feel so cheap.

BRAD

Okay, yeah, this one is a bit weird but the first one... that was a real date.

CONNER

And look how that turned out.

Tie complete, he turns to face Brad.

CONNER (CONT'D)

Okay. I'm ready. Wish me luck.

BRAD

You don't need luck.

CONNER

(takes it as a compliment)

Really? Thanks, man.

BRAD

No, I meant, all you really have to do is not set anyone on fire. It's kind of a low bar, you know?

Conner shakes his head and leaves the room.

64

INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

64

Erin is in the kitchen preparing dinner for herself, the laptop on the counter nearby. Leigh comes out from the bedroom in a simple but pretty dress with a wrap around her shoulders.

LEIGH

How do I look?

ERIN

Oh, perfect! Perfect! It's a little chilly though. Do you want to borrow a sweater?

*

LEIGH

Is it flame retardant?

*

*

ERIN

Oh. Right. Sorry. Never mind.

*

*

LEIGH

I can't believe I'm so nervous. It's not even a real date.

ERIN

It's kind of a real date. He's taking you to dinner.

LEIGH

Only because someone is paying us to do it. I'm pretty sure this is illegal in certain states.

ERIN

I'm sure it'll be fine. Who knows, maybe you'll even have some fun.

LEIGH

Fun? On a date? Does that ever happen?

*

*

ERIN

Wow, he really did a number on you, didn't he?

LEIGH

Who?

Erin puts her hands over her ears and mimics the noise that Leigh has made a couple of times to keep Erin from saying her ex-boyfriend's name. *

ERIN

Ahhh! Don't say it! *

LEIGH

Oh. Yeah.

(beat)

He broke my heart. No. More than that. He made me feel... like I wasn't good enough.

Erin comes out of the kitchen to go to Leigh and take her hands.

ERIN

But you are, you know? You're better than good enough. You're amazing.

LEIGH

(beat)

Stop it. You're going to make my mascara run and you know how much I hate female cliches.

The two of them embrace and then Leigh heads for the door. *

ERIN

Call me if you need to be rescued
or, you know, if you see any open
flames.

LEIGH

Thanks for that.

Leigh nods and then takes a deep breath as she opens the
door.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

65

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

65

Conner is standing outside of the same restaurant that he and Leigh visited on their disastrous first date. Leigh walks up to join him.

LEIGH

Hi.

CONNER

Hello.

LEIGH

You're here.

CONNER

You sound surprised.

LEIGH

No, it's just... Uh... you look nice.

CONNER

(beat)

Again with the surprised.

LEIGH

(shakes her head)

I'm sorry. I didn't mean it that way. I'm just nervous.

CONNER

(beat - smiles)

Me too. This is pretty weird, huh?

LEIGH

Very weird. I've been fixed up by co-workers before but this is ridiculous.

CONNER

Exactly. Well, should we go in?

LEIGH

Oh. We have a reservation!

Conner looks at her.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

I sounded surprised again, didn't I? I heard it that time. Sorry.

They head into the restaurant.

66

INT. RESTAURANT LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

66

Leigh and Conner come into the restaurant. He motions for her to wait.

CONNER

Hold on. I'll go see if they have the table ready.

LEIGH

Okay.

Conner goes to the Maitre 'd. It's the same one we saw before.

MAITRE 'D

Good evening, how may I assist you?

CONNER

Hi. I have a reservation. Conner McMillan.

MAITRE 'D

(scans the list)

Oh yes, sir. Here it is. A table for two... at 9:45pm.

CONNER

What? No. It's for 7:30. I made the reservation myself.

MAITRE 'D

No, sir. It was at 7:30 but it was moved to 9:45.

CONNER

By who?

MAITRE 'D

I don't know, sir.

Conner turns away from the man in frustration and his gaze comes to land on Leigh.

CONNER

(grows suspicious)

Ohhhh... trying to tank the date, huh? Okay. Okay...

He turns back to the Maitre 'd as he pulls out his wallet.

CONNER (CONT'D)

What's it going to take to move it back to 7:30?

The Maitre 'd smiles.

EXT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Establishing shot of Leigh & Erin's apartment.

INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Erin is in still in the kitchen cooking when the computer gives its telltale "ding" that a message has arrived.

She hits a button and reads.

ERIN

(reads)

Private message from
SingleSurfer87... "So what do you
think?"

Erin starts typing.

ERIN (CONT'D)

(reads as she types)

I'm not done yet. The pasta is
still boiling.

A pause and then "ding" to indicate a reply.

ERIN (CONT'D)

(reads)

"This is my mother's secret recipe.
If you mess it up she'll never
forgive me for sharing it."

Erin laughs and then types.

ERIN (CONT'D)

(reads as she types)

Well, then stop chatting me. I
can't cook and type at the same
time.

Erin turns back to the stove but then "ding" - new reply.

ERIN (CONT'D)

(reads)

"You've got two hands..."

Erin laughs again and continues with dinner.

67

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

67

*

Establishing shot of the restaurant where Leigh and Conner are having dinner.

*
*

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

*

Leigh and Conner are being led to their table by the Maitre 'd.

*

LEIGH
(to Conner)
Do you think they remember us?

Just as they get to the table, a busboy comes by and quickly removes the candle.

CONNER
I'm thinking yes.

Conner and Leigh sit. There is the deadliest of uncomfortable pauses.

LEIGH
So...

CONNER
So...

LEIGH
I literally have no idea what to say right now.

CONNER
Me either. But can I ask you a question?

*

LEIGH
Sure.

CONNER
Did you... don't take this the wrong way, but did you want to do this? The he said/she said date thing?

LEIGH
(beat)
Well... I mean, it's a cute idea...

CONNER
But it wasn't your idea.

LEIGH
 (emphatically)
 No!
 (beat)
 Sorry, I didn't mean to say that so
 emphatically.

CONNER
 That's okay. This wasn't my idea
 either. My boss...

LEIGH
 Me, too! It was all Allison.

CONNER
 So you don't want to be here
 either?

LEIGH
 No! And this time I meant to say
 it emphatically.

CONNER
 (smiles)
 Well, hey! Look at that. We have
 things in common. Neither one of
 us wants to be on this date...

LEIGH
 And we both have crazy bosses...

CONNER
 I'll drink to that.

They clink their water glasses together and smile, a little
 bit of the tension relieved.

68 INT. RESTAURANT LOBBY - NIGHT

68

The Maitre 'd returns to his stand to find a man there, doing
 his best to see into the dining room but trying to be casual
 about it.

MAITRE 'D
 May I help you?

We PULL BACK to reveal the man is Milo.

MILO
 What? No. I'm good.

Milo goes back to trying to see around the Maitre 'd but the
 Maitre 'd is not budging.

MILO (CONT'D)

Do you mind stepping to the side
just a bit...

*

MAITRE 'D

(utter disdain)

Yes, I do.

Milo's phone rings and he takes a step away from the Maitre
'd stand to answer it.

MILO

Hello?

ALLISON (O.S.)

Milo. Are you interfering with
Leigh and Conner's date?

MILO

What? No. Of course not.

ALLISON (O.S.)

Really? Because the Maitre 'd
obviously thinks you are.

Milo looks around and sees Allison in the restaurant at a
table a few over from where Leigh and Conner are

She motions for him to come over.

69

INT. RESTAURANT ALLISON AND MILO'S TABLE - CONTINUOUS

69

Milo tries to avoid being seen by Conner and makes it over to
Allison's table. He sits.

MILO

What are you doing here?

ALLISON

What are *you* doing here?

MILO

Protecting my investment.

ALLISON

From the lobby? I'm surprised you
didn't get a table.

MILO

I did, but they weren't supposed to
be in here this early.

ALLISON
(gasps)
You changed the reservation.

MILO
(innocent)
I don't know what you're talking
about.

ALLISON
What else did you do?

MILO
Nothing.
(beat)
What did you do?

ALLISON
Nothing.

They eye each other warily.

MILO
(still suspicious)
You look amazing by the way.

ALLISON
(also suspicious)
Thank you. So do you. Nice suit.

MILO
(same)
Thank you. It's Italian.

There is another pause as they try to figure each other out.
Allison finally blinks.

ALLISON
I uh... I have to use the ladies
room.

MILO
(eyes narrowed)
Okay... I... I think I left
something in the car.

ALLISON
Okay.

MILO
Okay.

They watch each other with deep suspicion for a moment and then both quickly walk away from the table in opposite directions.

EXT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT *

Establishing shot of Leigh & Erin's apartment building. *

INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT *

Erin is settling down to eat - the computer is on the table next to her plate of pasta. This time we see the "PRIVATE CHAT" messages as they are happening. *

SINGLESURFER87: Well?????! *

Erin smiles and takes a bite of the pasta. Her reaction indicates that it is very good. She sets down the fork and types. *

FOODIEFAN88: Please call your mother and tell her how much I love her. *

SINGLESURFER87: Careful. She's going to want to meet you before I get a chance to. *

Erin laughs and takes another bite. It's really good. *

EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT *

Establishing shot of the restaurant again. *

70

INT. RESTAURANT LEIGH & CONNER'S TABLE - NIGHT

70

They are handing their menus back to a waiter who walks away with their order. *

CONNER

Okay. So, I guess we should do the first date stuff that we didn't get to do last time.

LEIGH

Right. Like, where you're from, family, how long have you lived here type stuff?

CONNER

Yeah. The basics.

LEIGH
(smiles)
Okay, well, I'm from...

Leigh's phone rings. She pulls it out of her purse

LEIGH (CONT'D)
Oh. Sorry. I forgot to turn the
ringer off.

She shuts off the phone and returns it to her purse.

CONNER
Go ahead.

LEIGH
Right. So I'm from...

The phone starts buzzing loudly in her purse.

LEIGH (CONT'D)
Sorry... Sorry... I'm just going to
shut it off.

She does so and puts the phone back in her purse.

LEIGH (CONT'D)
Okay. I think we're good now.

CONNER
Okay. So, you were saying?

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

LEIGH

Yes. I was just going to say that
I'm from...

The Maitre 'd walks up to the table.

MAITRE 'D

Ms. Ryness? There's a call for you
at the front desk.

LEIGH

Really? Okay...
(to Conner)
I better...

CONNER

(smiles)
Yeah, of course. Go ahead.

Leigh gets up and goes with the Maitre 'd.

71 INT. RESTAURANT LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

71

The Maitre 'd walks Leigh to the front desk and hands her the
phone receiver.

Milo walks into the lobby at the same time and lurks in the
background so he can listen to what is happening.

LEIGH

Hello? Hello?

She hands the phone back to the Maitre 'd.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

There's nobody there.

MAITRE 'D

Really? There was just a moment
ago. He said he was your brother
and it was urgent.

LEIGH

I don't have a brother.
(beat - realization)
(MORE)

LEIGH (CONT'D)

I don't suppose his name was Brad
was it?

MAITRE 'D

He didn't give a name.

Leigh looks back at the table where Conner is sitting.

LEIGH

(suspicious - to herself)
So... you need this to be a bad
date, too, huh? I'm on to you,
buddy.

She walks back toward the table.

72

INT. RESTAURANT ALLISON AND MILO'S TABLE - CONTINUOUS

72

Allison comes back to the table and sits down with a cat that
ate the canary grin. Milo comes back as well.

MILO

Call from his brother, hmmm? What
did you do, disguise your voice?

ALLISON

(smiles as she talks in a
low voice)
I have no idea what you're talking
about.

MILO

Okay. This means war.

Milo matches her grin.

73

DATE MONTAGE OF SCENES #1

73

A series of dialogue free scenes follows that quickly show
the progression of the really bad date, with most of the bad
being caused by Allison and Milo.

1) Milo bumps a waiter and the waiter bumps into Leigh,
causing her to spill her drink into Conner's lap.

2) Allison pours most of a salt container into a dish that is
on its way to Leigh and Conner's table.

3) Milo standing by the kitchen with a bottle of Tabasco
sauce, smiling, while in the background, Conner is drinking
big gulps of water as if his mouth is on fire.

74

INT. RESTAURANT LEIGH & CONNER'S TABLE - CONTINUOUS

74

The date is almost over and Leigh and Conner look relieved.

LEIGH

Well, this has been...

CONNER
Yeah. Just...

LEIGH
Maybe we should...

CONNER
I think so...

Conner signals for the waiter that he wants the check.

CONNER (CONT'D)
Well, look at it this way. At
least nothing burst into flames
this time.

The Maitre 'd wheels a cart up to the table - it has a pan
with a lid on it.

MAITRE 'D
Sir, as requested, Our signature
dessert...

CONNER
Dessert?

LEIGH
Dessert?

We ZOOM past the dessert cart to Allison and Milo's table.

MILO
Dessert?

ALLISON
(smiles)
Dessert.

Back at Leigh and Conner's table, the Maitre 'd pulls the lid
off the pan.

MAITRE 'D
Cherries Jubilee!

There is a whoosh of flame.

QUICK CUT TO:

75

INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

75

Erin is on the couch, happily trading messages with
SingleSurfer87 when the door opens. Leigh comes in, wet,
singed, and limping because of a broken heel.

Erin looks at her in horror.

LEIGH

Get the ice cream ready while I change.

Erin nods and runs toward the kitchen.

76 EXT. PETERS POST OFFICES - DAY

76

Establishing shot of the Peters Post offices.

77 INT. CONNER AND BRAD'S OFFICE - DAY

77

Brad and Milo are looking over Conner's shoulder as they read the Bad Date Chronicles.

BRAD

(reads)

"I'm not 100% sure but I think he might be trying to kill me. I should check my will to make sure he's not a beneficiary."

(laughs)

Wow. This is worse than the original.

CONNER

I didn't order that dessert!

MILO

This is so great!

CONNER

Great? How is this great?

MILO

Because your version already has twice the number of hits as hers does. We're winning! Totally worth the effort.

CONNER

What effort?

MILO

(making it up as he goes)

The effort... it took... to build this company and hire brilliant editors like you. Nicely done!

*

Milo pats Conner on the back and leaves quickly.

CONNER

That was weird.

BRAD

This is weird. In your blog you say...

(reads)

"I have no way of proving that she set up fake calls to pull her away from the table, but if the Bad Date plot fits, wear it."

(looks at him)

You really think she had her roommate page her at the front desk?

*
*

*

CONNER

I don't know who else it could've been.

They continue reading.

78

INT. MILO'S OFFICE - DAY

78

Milo walks into his office and picks up the phone, dialing quickly.

MILO

Hi Allison. Double or nothing?

He smiles.

79

EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES - DAY

79

Establishing the Richards Review offices.

80

INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S OFFICE - DAY

80

Leigh and Erin are at their desks, reading the blogs and comments.

ERIN

MyraB wants to know why Conner hates women.

LEIGH

Who's Myra B?

ERIN

One of the people commenting on your article.

LEIGH

Why are you reading those?
Everyone who posts on there is
crazy.

ERIN

(offended)
They're not *all* crazy.

LEIGH

Well, I'll tell you what is crazy:
that Conner really thinks I did all
this stuff just to make the date go
badly. Why would he say that?

ERIN

I think the operative word in the
title "Bad Date Chronicles" is bad.
Besides, you said that's what HE
did.

LEIGH

I *know* that's what he did.

ERIN

(shrugs)
Maybe he's trying to divert
suspicion.

LEIGH

This is so ridiculous. I went
through all that and he's getting
more views on his post than I am.

ERIN

How's Allison taking it?

LEIGH

She's ready to explode. If I don't
get the page views up somehow, I
don't know what she's going to do.

QUICK CUT TO:

81

INT. ALLISON'S OFFICE - DAY

81

Allison on the other end of the call we saw a moment ago.

ALLISON

Double or nothing? Deal!

She smiles and disconnects the call.

82 EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES - DAY 82

It's a new day at the Richards Review.

83 EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES ROOFTOP - DAY 83

Erin is at one of the tables eating lunch and on her tablet computer chatting with SingleSurfer87. We see their "PRIVATE CHAT":

SINGLESURFER87: I have to run. Are you going to be online tonight?

FOODIEFAN88: I should be. 8?

SINGLESURFER87: It's a date.

Erin smiles at the idea of that and disconnects the chat just as Brad comes out on to the roof.

BRAD

Hey... the front desk said I could come up... I'm Brad... Conner's friend?

ERIN

I remember who you are. If you're looking for Leigh, she's not...

BRAD

I'm not here to talk to Leigh. I'm here to talk to you.

ERIN

Why?

BRAD

Because you're the one helping Leigh tank their dates.

ERIN

I am not!

BRAD

So that wasn't you calling to pull her away from the table?

*
*

ERIN

No!

BRAD

Uh-huh.

ERIN

Why are you here?

BRAD

Because their second date is tonight and I'm asking you to stay out of it.

ERIN

I'm not in it! Maybe you should stay out of it. Conner couldn't have done all that by himself.

*
*

BRAD

Look, I know you don't like Conner, but he's actually a really good guy. And... he's been hurt, okay? His last relationship was...

(shakes his head)

It took him a long time to get to where he felt like he could trust anyone and so... Just stay out of it, okay?

He turns and heads for the door.

ERIN

Leigh was hurt, too.

Brad stops.

ERIN (CONT'D)

So bad that she won't even let me say his name around her. The Bad Date Chronicles is more than just a job for her. It's her way of feeling a little less... alone.

BRAD

(beat)

I'm sorry to hear that.

ERIN

I'm sorry, too. For him.

BRAD

Just let them have their date,
okay?

He leaves before Erin can protest anymore.

84 EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

84

Establishing shot of the coffee shop we saw earlier.

85 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

85

Allison is back in her usual spot having her usual cup of
coffee. Milo joins her.

ALLISON

I really need to find a new place
to get coffee.

MILO

When are you going to let go of
this feud between us?

*

ALLISON

When you admit what you did.

MILO

What did I do?

ALLISON

You know.

MILO

What? Starting my company?
Wanting to have something I could
call my own? This is what you're
angry about for the last two years?

ALLISON

What do you want, Milo?

*

MILO

(shakes his head)
Okay, here's the deal. I was re-
reading the blog postings - both of
them - and I'm actually feeling a
little bit...

*

*

*

(MORE)

MILO (CONT'D)

I don't know, let's call it guilty,
about what we did.

ALLISON

(eyebrow arch)

You? Guilty?

(looks around)

Is this being filmed for one of
those prank videos?

MILO

I'm serious. Our sites may not be
The New York Times, but we still
should have a modicum of
journalistic integrity, don't you
think? And messing with the love
lives of two completely innocent
people just for our own selfish,
personal gain is probably as far
from integrity as you can get.

ALLISON

(sighs)

I hate it when you're right.

MILO

Okay. So, their date tonight goes
however it's going to go, good or
bad, and we stay out of it.
Agreed?

ALLISON

Agreed.

They shake on it.

MILO

(teasing her)

You know you're beautiful when you
compromise.

ALLISON

(annoyed)

Go away.

He smiles and does just that but Allison can't help but smile
as he walks away.

Establishing shot of Leigh and Erin's apartment building.

87 INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

87

Erin is on the computer as Leigh comes out from her bedroom.

LEIGH

This is insane! He's just going to try to mess with me again like he did last time.

ERIN

Well, then mess with him first.

LEIGH

But then doesn't that make me just as bad as him?

ERIN

You have to make a choice, Leigh. Either take control or just stay here and hide out on the couch.

LEIGH

Our couch is really comfortable.

Erin gets up and goes to Leigh, taking her by the shoulders.

ERIN

Take control!

Leigh nods, takes a deep breath and exits, pulling the door closed behind her.

88 EXT. PETERS POST OFFICES - NIGHT

88

Establishing shot of The Peters Post building.

89 INT. CONNER AND BRAD'S OFFICE - NIGHT

89

Conner is having a similar freak out with Brad.

BRAD

I really don't know what you're so freaked out about.

CONNER

I'm going out on a date with someone who thinks I'm trying to kill her.

BRAD

She doesn't really think that. She just thinks you're trying to sabotage your dates. And you know what? Maybe you should.

CONNER

What? Why?

BRAD

Because otherwise you're just going to be playing defense all night. Don't let her take advantage of you like...

Brad trails off.

CONNER

(beat)

Like Amy did.

Brad nods and pats Conner on the back.

CONNER (CONT'D)

(nods)

No more playing defense.

He heads toward the door.

90

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

90

The sidewalk outside of a movie theater is mostly empty as Conner and Leigh rush up to each other from opposite directions.

CONNER AND LEIGH

Sorry I'm late.

LEIGH

I just got here.

CONNER

So did I.

LEIGH

So we're both late?

CONNER

And we missed the start of the movie.

They are both very wary and mistrustful of one another.

LEIGH

Okay... so what's plan B?

CONNER

Well, I was thinking maybe we could take one of those paddle boat rides out on the lake?

LEIGH

Lake? No. No lakes, especially if there's a car involved.

*

CONNER

What?

LEIGH

Never mind. What if we just went to get some coffee?

CONNER

Coffee, huh? A room full of hot liquids. I don't think so. There's a little bar around the corner that does karaoke.

LEIGH

(eyes wide)

So I can make a fool out of myself in public? No, thank you. Roller skating?

CONNER

So I can wind up in a cast?

LEIGH

Well, then what are we going to do?

CONNER

(exasperated)

Should we just go take a walk?

LEIGH

A walk?

CONNER

Yeah, you know... one foot in front of the other.

LEIGH

(very suspicious)

Okay.

CONNER

Okay.

They start walking, looking at each other out of the corner of their eyes, waiting for the other to do something that will turn this into a Bad Date Chronicle.

91 EXT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 91

Establishing shot of Leigh and Erin's apartment.

92 INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 92

Erin is sitting on the couch chatting with SingleSurfer again. We see their exchange...

FOODIEFAN88: I'm not a big pop music fan. I prefer '60s soul music. *

SINGLESURFER87: OK, just when I was sure you couldn't be any more perfect. Soul, R&B, Motown. My favorite!

FOODIEFAN88: That's incredible. I wonder what else we have in common. *

SINGLESURFER87: Well... should we find out? What are you doing for lunch tomorrow?

Erin is taken aback.

ERIN

Whoa.

FOODIEFAN88: You want to meet? Like in person? *

SINGLESURFER87: That's the way meeting usually works.

Erin contemplates it for a moment then takes a deep breath and types.

FOODIEFAN88: Lunch would be great. *

SINGLESURFER87: Great! How about Grandy's on 5th? Noon?

FOODIEFAN88: Sounds good. *

She starts to get up but then realizes...

FOODIEFAN88: Wait! How are we going to know each other? *

SINGLESURFER87: I'll be wearing a red shirt and jeans.

FOODIEFAN88: Okay. I'll see you at noon. *

She shuts down the chat application and smiles nervously.

93

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

93

Conner and Leigh are walking down the street nervously and silently.

CONNER

So... how did you get started with the Bad Date Chronicles?

LEIGH

Happenstance, mainly. I got hired to be a copy editor on the site but then I had this really, really epic break up around the time they were looking for someone to run the blog. It seemed like a natural fit at the time.

*
*
*
*

CONNER

Had a few bad dates yourself, huh? I mean, other than ours.

*
*
*

LEIGH

(smiles)

Yes. Bad dates. Bad relationship. Bad... everything. I kind of wanted to just forget about it, you know? Work on something happy and upbeat, but the site didn't have a blog about puppies and rainbows, so... How about you and Trends?

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

CONNER

In a way, the same thing. I was writing a sports blog, had a bad break up, and then needed something else to write about.

*

LEIGH

Why?

CONNER

Oh, did I not mention she was a sportscaster on a local TV station?

LEIGH

Ah. Continue.

CONNER

So my college buddy Brad hooked me up with the gig at The Peters Post by telling them I was super trendy and cutting edge on all the latest everything.

LEIGH

And you weren't?

CONNER

My car was seven years old and I'd
had the same haircut since I was
fifteen.

Leigh laughs.

CONNER (CONT'D)

You know that phrase "fake it 'til you make it?" I was really good at faking it.

LEIGH

So I guess our breakups were good for something. They got us jobs.

CONNER

Yeah, I guess they did. Although there is that whole inability to trust anyone thing to balance it out.

LEIGH

There is that.

They smile a little at each other and keep walking.

94

INT. CAR - NIGHT

94

From inside a car we see Conner and Leigh go by. Moments later, Allison sits up in the driver's seat, watching them intently. A few seconds later, someone walks up to the passenger side and knocks on the window. Allison jumps, startled, and then sees that it is Milo. She sighs and unlocks the door - he jumps in.

MILO

(accusatory)

So much for integrity, huh?

ALLISON

I'm just watching. You?

MILO

Same. 15 million page views are at stake.

ALLISON

Well, I'd forget that because the two of them are on the most boring date ever.

MILO

I know, right? They're taking a walk and talking. I mean, come on.

ALLISON

This is not Bad Date Chronicle worthy.

MILO

So what do we do? We agreed not to interfere.

ALLISON

Yes, we did. Because that would be bad.

MILO

Yes, it would be.
(beat)
Although...

ALLISON

(eager)
I'm listening.

MILO

A bad date is not just in our best interest, it's also in theirs.

ALLISON

Go on...

MILO

A bad date means more page views, which means a higher profile for them, which could mean better jobs, more money...

ALLISON

This could be the first step toward them running their own online magazines. We kind of owe it to them to interfere. We're like their mentors.

MILO

And mentors have integrity!

ALLISON

Well, then what are we waiting for?

The two of them start to get out of the car.

MILO

Allison!

ALLISON

What?

MILO

You're beautiful when you
compromise but you're gorgeous when
you're devious.

ALLISON

(rolls her eyes)

Can we just go ruin a date, please?

They get out of the car.

95

DATE MONTAGE OF SCENES #2

95

A series of dialogue free scenes follows that quickly show
the progression of yet another bad date.

1) Leigh is on a small stage at a bar, having been talked
into karaoke. As she is singing the words on the monitor
suddenly disappear and she is left floundering as everyone in
the audience points and laughs. We ZOOM to see Milo behind a
curtain, holding the plug.

*
*

2) Conner and Leigh are walking down a sidewalk with
milkshakes. Leigh takes a sip of hers and spits it out -
it's horrible. They walk on by and Allison enters the shot
with a bottle of ketchup and a smile.

*
*
*
*

3) A sign reads "Paddle Boat Rentals" and has an arrow
pointing off. Conner and Leigh come from that direction,
very wet and very unhappy. After they walk away, Milo and
Allison enter the shot holding a drill, looking very pleased
with themselves.

*
*
*

96

EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES - DAY

96

The next day at the Richards Review.

97

INT. ALLISON'S OFFICE - DAY

97

Allison is practically giddy while looking at her computer
when Leigh comes in.

ALLISON

Leigh! How does it feel?

LEIGH

How does what feel?

ALLISON

To be a winner! Your write-up of the date last night is outpacing the Peters Post version by thirty percent! We're going to crush them with the next date!

LEIGH

Yeah, that's what I wanted to talk to you about. I don't think there's going to be a next date.

ALLISON

What do you mean? He's not that bad, is he?

*
*

LEIGH

No, he's not... he actually seems like a pretty decent guy and we were even having fun in between all the horrible stuff that was happening, but Allison, I think another date might kill me.

*
*
*
*
*

Allison, puts an arm around Leigh's shoulder.

*

ALLISON

Look, Leigh, I've been seeing you in a new light since all this started. Smart, funny, talented...

*

LEIGH

Wait. How did you see me before?

ALLISON

To be honest? You were fine. Fine is fine but it's not amazing and since you started writing your experiences you have been amazing.

LEIGH

Really?

ALLISON

Yes.

(reads from the computer)

"If he is not intentionally trying to make these dates a nightmare then I'm pretty sure one of us must have picked up an ancient Tiki necklace on a family trip to Hawaii because we are cursed."

(to Leigh)

That's funny. I see big things for you here at The Richards Review.

LEIGH

But can't I write about something else? Something that doesn't involve the threat of imminent death?

*

ALLISON

I'm sure you could, but how are you going to feel if you don't see this all the way through?

LEIGH

Relieved?

ALLISON

Like a quitter. You don't want to be a quitter, do you? I know I don't.

LEIGH

You don't have as much at stake in this as I do.

ALLISON

(considers)

You know what? You may be right.

*

Allison opens the door.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

It was good talking to you Leigh. Looking forward to the next write up.

Allison pushes Leigh out the door and pulls it closed.

98

INT. ALLISON'S OFFICE RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS

98

Leigh is standing outside of Allison's office, a bit lost.

LEIGH

What just happened?

She shakes her head and walks away.

99

INT. ALLISON'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

99

Allison is back at her desk on her computer. She types and clicks a few times and brings up The Peters Post. She clicks on a link marked "About Us" and starts reading intently.

*
*
*

100 EXT. PETERS POST OFFICES - DAY 100

Establishing shot of the Peters Post office building.

101 EXT. CONNER AND BRAD'S OFFICE - DAY 101

Conner is pacing while Brad sits at his desk allowing Conner to vent.

CONNER

She thinks I sank the boat!

BRAD

I know.

CONNER

I didn't sink the boat!

BRAD

I know. But the boat sank and so, if I was your girlfriend...

CONNER

She's not my girlfriend! And it's not my fault!

BRAD

(shrugs)

It's gotta be someone's fault.

CONNER

Well, it shouldn't be me. Leigh is trying to blame me for everything. I didn't break the karaoke machine, I didn't put ketchup in her milkshake, and I certainly didn't sink the boat!

Conner sits at his desk, dejectedly.

BRAD

Do you think your girlfriend did?

CONNER

Stop calling her that! I don't know. She doesn't seem like the type but this can't all be a coincidence. Nobody has three dates in a row like this by accident.

BRAD
So what are you going to do about
it?

Conner pauses for a moment and then gets up and heads for the door.

BRAD (CONT'D)
Where are you going?

CONNER
To break up with my girlfriend.

He exits.

102 EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY 102

Establishing shot of the coffee house.

103 INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY 103

This time it's Milo sitting at the regular table as Allison comes up to join him.

MILO
You're late.

ALLISON
I'm not late. I'm just varying my
routine.

MILO
Same coffee house, same table, just
ten minutes later than usual?

ALLISON
(offended)
I got a different drink, too.

Milo looks at it.

MILO
Looks the same to me.

ALLISON
It's only a half-caf.

Milo shakes his head.

MILO
(sardonic)
Yeah. You're a mad woman. Totally
out of control.

ALLISON
Anyway... so I was talking to Leigh
and she made a good point. *

MILO
What was that? *

ALLISON
That I don't have enough at stake
in this little competition of ours.

MILO
Okay. So what did you have in
mind?

Allison takes out a business card and sets it on the table.

MILO (CONT'D)
Your business card? Not sure
that's worth more than the four
bucks we're up to on our double or
nothing bet, but... *

ALLISON
Not the card... the business. *

MILO
What?

ALLISON
I did some research. The Richards
Review has women 18-49. The Peters
Post has men. Separately we do
fine. But together... together we
could be amazing. *

MILO
You want us to merge? *

ALLISON
Yes.

MILO
As partners?

ALLISON
Well, that's where the wager comes
in. If we get more hits on the next
date post then you work for me.
(MORE)

ALLISON (CONT'D)

If you get more hits, then I work for you.

MILO

You're serious.

ALLISON

Very.

Milo considers it for a moment.

MILO

You're on.

They shake on it.

104

EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES - DAY

104

Leigh is coming out of the Richards Review offices just as Conner is approaching.

LEIGH

Conner?

CONNER

I can't believe you really think I'm that much of a monster!

Leigh is taken aback. She looks around, nervous that other people have overheard his outburst.

LEIGH

Do you mind? I work here.

She guides him off to the side away from other people.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

What are you talking about?

CONNER

Your Bad Date Chronicle where you called me a sociopath.

LEIGH

I did not.

CONNER

You may as well have. Sabotage, food tampering, maritime disasters. I mean if I wasn't so offended I'd be impressed that you think I have that much power.

LEIGH

So what? You just expect me to believe that all of this was just happenstance?

CONNER

No, I don't think that at all.

LEIGH

Oh, so I'm the sociopath?

CONNER

If the straight-jacket fits...

LEIGH

It wasn't me!

CONNER

Well, it wasn't me either.

LEIGH

If it wasn't you and it wasn't me, then who was it?

At that moment, a car pulls up to the curb at the front of the building and Allison gets out of the passenger side.

Leigh tries to hide behind Conner.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

Oh great. That's my boss.

Conner looks just as Milo leans across to wave goodbye to Allison.

CONNER

That's my boss!

Leigh looks. Allison and Milo look very chummy.

LEIGH

Wait a minute. That's Milo Peters?

CONNER

Yes. That's Allison Richards?

LEIGH

Yes. What are they doing together?

It takes them a moment but then it all becomes clear.

CONNER AND LEIGH

Ohhhhhhhhh!

They nod as they figure out who has been sabotaging their dates.

105

EXT. CAFE - DAY

105

Erin is sitting at a table at an outdoor cafe, nervously drumming her fingers and looking every which way. As she looks to her right, someone sits down at the table on her left. When she looks back she sees Brad.

He is wearing a light jacket and also looking around.

ERIN
(not happy)
Brad?

BRAD
(ditto)
Erin?

ERIN
What are you doing here?

BRAD
I'm meeting someone.

ERIN
So am I. Go away.

BRAD
What do you mean, go away?

ERIN
I mean, you're going to ruin it.

BRAD
How would I ruin it?

ERIN
I don't know, but I'm sure you'll find a way.

BRAD
Well, then maybe you should leave.

ERIN
I'm not leaving!

BRAD
I'm not either.

To punctuate this, he takes off his jacket, revealing a red shirt underneath.

It takes Erin a moment - then she gasps and points.

ERIN

Red shirt!

He looks down at his shirt and realizes what that comment means.

BRAD

No...

ERIN

SingleSurfer?

BRAD

FoodieFan?!

*

They both gape at each other, horrified.

106

EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES - DAY

106

Leigh and Conner are sitting on a bench outside the Richards Review office, contemplating what they have just learned.

CONNER

It all makes sense now.

LEIGH

I was feeling so...

CONNER

Inept?

LEIGH

Yes. Like I had not only forgotten how to date but was actually really bad at it. Like bodily harm bad.

CONNER

I know! I mean, I realize I shouldn't wrap up my sense of self-worth in a stereotypical guy thing of how women respond to me on a date, but...

LEIGH

I get it. I totally get it. But it wasn't us. It was them!

CONNER

Yes. They are the sociopaths. They sank our boat!

LEIGH
They lit me on fire. Twice!

CONNER
(beat)
Well, once... the first time was
before they got involved.

Leigh pauses for a moment.

LEIGH
I saw we blame them anyway.

CONNER
Works for me.

LEIGH
So what are we going to do? We're
supposed to go out again this
weekend.

CONNER
And it's supposed to be our last
date. I don't think I want to know
what they have in mind for a grand
finale.

LEIGH
Yeah, that's not going to end well
for us.

CONNER
So we just tell them we're not
going to do it.

LEIGH
I tried that already.

CONNER
Okay, then what if we tell them we
know what they've been doing. Tell
them to keep away from our last
date and let it happen however it's
going to happen.

LEIGH
And you think they'll listen?

CONNER
No, probably not.
(beat)
Unless... they can't mess with our
date if they don't know when the
date is happening.

LEIGH
They already do.

CONNER
Not if we change it.

LEIGH
Oh. I like it. Change it to when?

CONNER
Right now. Let's just go. Blow
off the rest of work and go off the
record. Prove to ourselves that we
aren't Bad Date Chronicles
material.

LEIGH
(smiles)
Let's do it!

They shake on it and then jump off the bench and scurry off quickly.

107

EXT. CAFE - DAY

107

Brad and Erin are still sitting there, both with their arms crossed and their backs to one another.

ERIN
Did you know?

BRAD
Know what?

ERIN
That I was me? That she was me?
The one you were chatting... you
know what I mean.

BRAD
No. We talked about Leigh and
Conner's dates and you never said
anything about knowing them.

ERIN
I wanted to know what you really
thought and figured if you knew I
knew her, you'd censor your
answers.

BRAD
Yeah. Me too.

*

Turns to him.

ERIN
But you defended Leigh online. *

BRAD
I didn't want to admit that I
thought my friend was being... *

ERIN
Lame? *

BRAD
(shrugs)
Something like that. I read both
sides and I kind of felt like Leigh
was making a stronger case. Don't
tell her I said that. *

ERIN
I won't... if you don't tell him
that I saw his side of things, too. *

BRAD
Why didn't you say so in our chats? *

ERIN
Because she's my friend. It's in
the job description to defend her. *

BRAD
I get it. *

ERIN
So now what? Because as much as I
may have liked you as SingleSurfer,
you in person has been...

BRAD
Yeah, the feeling is mutual.

ERIN
Well, I guess that's that, then. *

BRAD
I guess so.

Neither of them move.

ERIN
The universe has a really lousy
sense of humor.

Brad nods but they still don't move.

108 EXT. STREET - DAY 108

Establishing shot of a bustling commercial street with shops and cafes lining both sides.

109 EXT. STREET - DAY 109

Leigh and Conner are walking down the street, laughing and eating ice cream cones.

LEIGH

(laughs)

No way. Seriously?

CONNER

(nods)

Yep. When I was little I wanted to be the Governor of Ohio.

LEIGH

Not President?

CONNER

No! That's too scary. You have to deal with things like war. The Governor of Ohio gets all the cool stuff the president does like the car and the bodyguards and the code name but he never has to worry about whether or not Michigan is going to attack.

LEIGH

That's a good point.

CONNER

What did you want to be when you grew up?

LEIGH

(rolls her eyes)

Oh, I did the little girl trifecta: princess, ballerina, or doggy doctor.

CONNER

Nice!

LEIGH

Yeah, but unfortunately I learned I wasn't born into royalty, I have two left feet, and our dog Skipper *didn't* go live on a farm upstate.

(MORE)

LEIGH (CONT'D)

The bloom was off the rose on all of them.

CONNER

Understandable.

There is a silence between that is much more friendly and comfortable than any of the previous ones have been.

*

CONNER (CONT'D)

Can I ask you a question?

LEIGH

Of course.

CONNER

If our first date hadn't crashed and burned...

LEIGH

I see what you did there.

CONNER

...would you have wanted to go out with me again?

LEIGH

(smiles - embarrassed)

I think so.

CONNER

Why?

LEIGH

Because I thought you were nice. Despite everything that happened, for some reason I couldn't stop thinking that you were a nice guy. I didn't get a lot of... nice... with my ex-boyfriend, so... nice was... a nice change of pace.

*

*

*

*

*

CONNER

Well, I was relieved when I thought I'd never have to see you again.

LEIGH

(not what she wanted)

Oh...

CONNER

But I was also... I was a little disappointed. Like I was missing out on something... special.

*

*

LEIGH
(happy)
Oh...

CONNER
It's been a long time since I felt
like that.

*
*
*

LEIGH
(beat)
You know it's been over an hour and
nothing horrible has happened.

*
*

CONNER
Shhhh... don't jinx it.

Leigh smiles and they continue walking.

110

EXT. CAFE - DAY

110

Brad and Erin are STILL sitting there.

ERIN
There's no way this could work.

BRAD
I know.

ERIN
Our best friends hate each other.

BRAD
I know.

ERIN
And you and I hate each other.

BRAD
I don't know about *hate*.

ERIN
We certainly don't *like* each other.

*

BRAD
FoodieFan and SingleSurfer do. I
mean, at least I think they do.

*

ERIN
(a small smile)
They do.
(smile fades)
But that's not real life.
(MORE)

ERIN (CONT'D)

That's bits and bytes and data and
hiding behind personas that aren't
who we really are.

(MORE)

ERIN (CONT'D)

And even if they were, we don't
know if they could've worked.

There is another one of those ugly silences.

BRAD

So...

ERIN

So...

Brad takes his jacket and stands up.

BRAD

I'm going to go.

Erin stands up also.

ERIN

Yeah. Me too.

They stand there for a moment and then start to walk away
from each other. Brad stops and turns back.

BRAD

For the record?

Erin stops and turns back.

BRAD (CONT'D)

I think SingleSurfer and FoodieFan
would've worked.

*

Brad leaves and Erin watches him go for a moment. Then she
turns to leave as well.

111

DATE MONTAGE OF SCENES #3

111

We see a series of brief shots of Leigh and Conner on their
date. It is going a lot better than then one we saw in the
last couple of montages.

1) Conner and Leigh are sitting on a bench in a park, talking
and enjoying each others' company.

2) Conner and Leigh are eating at a restaurant, laughing and
sharing food off each others' plates.

3) It is night now as the two of them walk down a sidewalk by
the waterfront. He reaches out to take her hand.

112 EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES - NIGHT 112

Establish the Richards Review building at night.

113 INT. ALLISON'S OFFICE - NIGHT 113

Allison is working late when her phone rings. She answers it.

ALLISON
Allison Richards.

QUICK CUT TO:

114 INT. MILO'S OFFICE - NIGHT 114

Milo is on the other end of the line. We begin INTERCUTTING between the two of them.

MILO
Working late as usual.

ALLISON
Just making sure that everything is in order for when you come to work at The Richards Review.

MILO
(smiles)
What a coincidence. I was just trying to figure out where you're going to sit when you come to work for The Peters Post.

ALLISON
(laughs)
I do enjoy our little chats.

MILO
So do I. Are we really going to do this? Merge our two companies?

ALLISON
I've run all the numbers ten times and I keep coming up with the same answer. We'll be better together than we are apart.

MILO
We always were.

ALLISON

(sighs)

Milo...

MILO

I know. Sorry. So you're really ready to let it go?

ALLISON

(beat - serious)

I have been doing this for a long time. I started this as a blog before anyone really knew what a blog was. It's been my life.

MILO

I know. I saw it every day when I worked there. How important it is to you.

ALLISON

Yes, it is. But when Leigh said the stakes weren't high enough for me, I realized she was right. They haven't been for awhile. Things here have been... routine.

MILO

(tries to be helpful)

You switched to half-caf.

ALLISON

(smiles)

When the thought of betting the Richards Review popped into my head, my first reaction wasn't "That's ridiculous" it was "Why don't I think that's ridiculous?"

(beat)

I wouldn't have made this bet if I wasn't prepared, at least on some level, to lose.

MILO

(beat)

Okay.

ALLISON

But I'm going to win.

MILO

(laughs)

Okay.

ALLISON

And how are you going to feel when that happens?

MILO

(beat)

Let's just say you're not the only one looking for a change in routine.

Allison nods and leans back in her chair to put her feet up on her desk.

ALLISON

So we should probably talk about logistics.

MILO

Yeah, absolutely.

Milo puts his feet up on his desk as well.

115

EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES - NIGHT

115

Conner and Leigh walk up to the Richards Review building, her arm looped in his.

CONNER

Here we are. Are you sure you don't want me to take you home?

LEIGH

My car is here, so...

CONNER

Right.

LEIGH

I could give you a ride.

CONNER

No, I drove here. I'm good.

LEIGH

Okay.

(beat)

I had a great time.

CONNER

So did I.

There is a beat as they stand there, smiling shyly.

CONNER (CONT'D)

So the date is officially over,
right?

LEIGH

Right.

CONNER

So that means...

LEIGH

What?

CONNER

We're not "Bad Dates."

Leigh smiles broadly and puts her hand up for a high five.
He gives her one and they show off like they have just scored
a touchdown.

LEIGH

Yeah, buddy! That's what I'm
talking about!

CONNER

We crushed dating!

LEIGH

(does a little dance)

We're good at dating! We're good
at dating!

CONNER

In your face, bad dates!

There is another moment of celebration and then they return
to the shy smiles.

LEIGH

So I have an idea...

*

CONNER

Okay...

*

*

LEIGH
I know this date was for us and not
for our blogs but...

*
*
*

CONNER
But it was a really good date.

*

LEIGH
It was, wasn't it?

CONNER
Yes. You think we should tell
people about it?

*
*

LEIGH
Yes! I would love people to read
about a good date for once.

*
*

CONNER
Okay, it's a deal then. Write it
up tonight and we'll turn them in
first thing tomorrow?

*
*

LEIGH
Great! I can't wait to read it.

CONNER
Me too.

LEIGH
Well... good night.

CONNER
Good night.

There is a moment when it appears that Conner is going to lean in to kiss her, but she holds out her hand to gently stop him.

LEIGH
If we write up tonight's date for
our sites, that means it was for
work. I want our first good night
kiss to be after a real date.

CONNER
(smiles)
We get to have a real date?

LEIGH

Well, we're so good at it. It would be a waste of all this dating talent not to.

She smiles and walks away. He smiles as he watches her go.

116 EXT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 116

Establishing shot of Leigh and Erin's apartment building.

117 INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 117

Leigh enters the apartment floating on cloud nine. Erin is on the couch and no cloud whatsoever.

LEIGH

Okay, you are never going to believe the incredible day I have had. Seriously, it's like I lost all my bad dating karma.

Leigh finally sees a visibly upset Erin and goes to her quickly.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

Erin? What's wrong?

ERIN

I think I found all your bad dating karma.

LEIGH

What happened?

QUICK CUT TO:

118 INT. CONNER'S KITCHEN - NIGHT 118

Conner and Brad are sitting at the kitchen table in Conner's house.

CONNER

Erin? Leigh's Erin? Your mystery Internet soul mate was the woman that, like, kind of hates you?

BRAD

That's the one.

CONNER
Oh man, I'm sorry.

BRAD
(shrugs)
What are you gonna do?

QUICK CUT TO:

119 INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 119

Leigh and Erin are still on the sofa.

ERIN
I can't do anything. We'd
obviously never work out, so...

LEIGH
But you said you were really
hitting it off online.

ERIN
That's before I knew who he really
was.

QUICK CUT TO:

120 INT. CONNER'S KITCHEN - NIGHT 120

Conner and Brad at the table.

BRAD
I just wish there was a way to show
her who I really am.
(shakes his head)
Enough about me. How did it go
with Leigh?

QUICK CUT TO:

121 INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 121

Leigh and Erin on the couch.

LEIGH
Incredible! We had the best time.

ERIN
Really?

LEIGH

Really. It's amazing how much easier dating is when there are no crazy people trying to mess it all up.

QUICK CUT TO:

122 INT. CONNER'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

122

Conner and Brad at the table.

BRAD

Milo Peters and Allison Richards working together? I thought they hated each other.

CONNER

Apparently they found something in common. Greed. Our posts about our horrible dates have been getting huge numbers so it makes sense that they wanted more.

BRAD

So what are you going to do?

QUICK CUT TO:

123 INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

123

Leigh and Erin on the couch.

LEIGH

We're going to give them what they asked for... a third date.

QUICK CUT TO:

124 INT. ALLISON'S OFFICE - DAY

124

Leigh is sitting nervously in the guest chair in Allison's office while Allison reads a draft of the new date post on her computer. She finishes and sits back in her chair.

ALLISON

Okay... Where do I start?

LEIGH

I'm sorry?

ALLISON
You don't have to apologize...

LEIGH
No, I meant you. You're sorry.
For intentionally trying to ruin
our dates. You're sorry for that,
right?

ALLISON
Uh... yes?

LEIGH
Allison...

ALLISON
Your Bad Date Chronicles generated
millions of hits and as far as
revenue, I don't think the
accounting department has ever been
asked to count that high. So no,
I'm not sorry that we created
something popular and successful.

LEIGH
Even if it meant I got hurt in the
process.

ALLISON
How did you get hurt?

LEIGH
I was on fire!

ALLISON
You really need to let that go,
Leigh. Everyone else has.

LEIGH
Well, it's over now. You have your
final date piece so I have
fulfilled my duties.

ALLISON
(points to computer)
We can't run this.

LEIGH
Why not?

ALLISON

(reads from the screen)

"It's easy to get distracted by the things that don't really matter but that's what makes it all the more exciting... when you can see past those distractions to find the real person standing behind them..."

(beat)

Erin already pitched a Love Stories blog, remember? We don't do fiction?

*
*
*

LEIGH

It's not fiction. It's what happened. You'd prefer that I make something up? Say we had a horrible time and there was, like, a plague of locusts or something?

*
*

ALLISON

Well, plague of locusts is a little far fetched, but I like where you're going. Oh, maybe the restaurant had cockroaches or...

Leigh stands.

LEIGH

I'm not doing this. That's the date we had. If you want something else, write it yourself.

Leigh walks out of the office. Allison fumes for a moment.

*

ALLISON

(to herself)

All right. I will.

She turns to the computer and starts typing.

125 EXT. PETERS POST OFFICES - DAY

125

Establishing the offices of the Peters Post.

126 INT. MILO'S OFFICE - DAY

126

A similar scene is playing out between Milo and Conner, only here, Milo is reading off printed paper while he walks in a circle around Conner, who is seated in a guest chair.

Milo finishes and sits at his desk.

MILO

(beat)

So Allison really tried to sabotage your dates?

CONNER

Milo...

MILO

(sighs)

Okay, okay. We're awful people. I get it. But we had a good reason for it.

CONNER

You did?

MILO

Yes. Money.

Conner starts to stand up to leave.

MILO (CONT'D)

Just... sit down.

Conner does, warily.

MILO (CONT'D)

What I meant is money for the company... you know, to pay people's salaries with. Not just mine and yours but everyone who works here. I'm responsible for all of these people and sometimes that is a little...

CONNER

Scary?

MILO

What am I? Nine years old? No, it's not scary.

Conner gets up to leave again.

MILO (CONT'D)

Sit, sit, sit...

Conner sits down again reluctantly.

MILO (CONT'D)

It's... intimidating. I feel the weight of that responsibility every single day and...

(MORE)

MILO (CONT'D)

I guess it made me a little crazy.
(beat)
I am sorry.

CONNER

(beat)
Thank you.

MILO

(holds up Conner's story)
This is really well written. You
really like her, don't you?

CONNER

(smiles)
I do.

MILO

It's totally not what the readers
want.

CONNER

I don't know... doesn't everyone
want a happy ending?

MILO

For themselves, yes. For other
people?
(shrugs)
But if this is what you want to
publish...

CONNER

It is.

MILO

(beat)
Then this is what we publish. Just
let me show it to Allison first,
okay? I don't want there to be any
surprises.

CONNER

Okay. Thanks Milo. I appreciate
it.

MILO

Remember that when we're all
unemployed.

Conner leaves the office.

127 EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES - DAY 127

Establishing shot of the Richards Review.

128 INT. ALLISON'S OFFICE - DAY 128

Allison has printed out what she has written and is reading it gleefully.

ALLISON

(laughs)

Oh this is good... this is really,
really good.

(laughs again)

This makes the whole fire thing
look like child's play.

(nods)

Bad Date Chronicles, here we come.

She sets down the paper and turns to the computer and types a few strokes on the keyboard.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

(reads)

Publish yes or no?

She raises her finger to bring it down on the key that will publish it but then stops.

The smile on Allison's face fades and then she lowers her hand.

She lets out a big sigh and sits back in her chair, staring at the screen for a moment. Then she reaches up and hits a key.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

No.

She picks up the printed piece and tosses it in the trash can next to her desk. A couple of the pages miss and fall on the floor.

Allison gets up and heads toward the door just as Milo enters.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

Milo. Hey...

MILO

Hey. Can we talk?

ALLISON

Yes. We actually need to. But I have to go find Leigh, real quick. Do you mind waiting?

MILO

No, not at all. Go ahead. I'll be here.

ALLISON

Thanks.

Allison exits and Milo goes to sit in the guest chair.

It is here that he notices the papers on the floor next to the trash can. He goes to pick them up and notices what is written on them. Milo grabs the rest of the paper from the floor and trash can and reads quickly, growing more and more upset.

129 INT. CONNER AND BRAD'S OFFICE - DAY

129

Conner is by himself in the office, working at his computer when Milo comes in. He hands Conner the sheets of paper he found in Allison's office.

MILO

You need to read this.

Conner takes them and starts reading.

DISSOLVE TO:

130 INT. CONNER AND BRAD'S OFFICE - LATER

130

Conner has finished reading and sets the papers down on his desk. He appears shell-shocked - like he has just witnessed some horrible tragedy.

CONNER

I don't understand.

MILO

Conner...

CONNER

This is not... it's not her.

MILO

Everything matches with what you said only instead of your romantic comedy she wrote a horror movie.

Milo reads from the paper.

MILO (CONT'D)

"When he asked me if I thought I would have wanted to go out with him again after the first date, I almost couldn't decide if I wanted to scream, laugh, run away, or throw up. That I kept myself from doing any of those things is nothing short of a miracle."

CONNER

Why would she do this?

MILO

I'm sorry to say it, but I think she played you. This way she gets to write the Bad Date Chronicles and you look like a fool. Then the Richards Review gets all the hits and we are left with nothing.

*

CONNER

(beat)

I really thought she liked me.

MILO

I'm sorry, man.

Conner sits there for a moment, devastated. Then he looks at Milo.

CONNER

You haven't published my story yet, have you?

MILO

No.

CONNER

Good. I think it needs a few revisions.

Conner turns to the computer and starts typing.

131

EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES - DAY

131

Establishing shot of the Richards Review offices.

132

EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES ROOFTOP - DAY

132

Erin is by herself at a table eating lunch when her tablet computer gives the telltale "ding" that a message has been received.

She picks up the tablet to read the "PRIVATE CHAT."

SINGLESURFER87: You're the editor for the food blog, right?

Erin hesitates for a moment but then decides to respond.

FOODIEFAN88: Yes.

SINGLESURFER87: I have a problem that I need some advice on.

FOODIEFAN88: You have a food problem?

SINGLESURFER87: Sort of... I can't eat when I'm this unhappy.

Erin smiles and is then surprised when Brad speaks - he is by the door texting on his phone.

BRAD

I always lose my appetite when I
feel like I messed up something
important.

ERIN

(types and talks)
Maybe you didn't mess it up. Maybe
someone else messed it up.

Puts away the phone.

BRAD

Maybe we both did. But I'm
presuming you heard about Conner
and Leigh's date last night...

ERIN

Yes. It went great.

BRAD

So I figured if the two of them
could let bygones be bygones and
start over, maybe we could, too?

Erin considers, then types something on the computer. Brad's phone dings and he looks at it.

BRAD (CONT'D)

(reads)

What time are you picking me up
tonight?

Brad smiles and starts to type back a response but her computer "dings" before he has a chance to finish. Erin looks up at him.

BRAD (CONT'D)

(shrugs)

Wasn't me.

Erin looks back at her computer.

ERIN

Oh, it's a news alert. Conner just
posted his write up of the date!

Brad comes to the table to read over her shoulder. Their expressions grow grim quickly.

BRAD

Oh no...

ERIN

(reads)

"It turns out that our bad dates
really were my fault because I'm
the one who was willing to give her
the benefit of the doubt. I was
willing to believe that she was a
decent human being."

Erin looks at Brad.

ERIN (CONT'D)

Did you know about this?

BRAD

No! The last time I talked to him
it was fine. It was great. They
had a great time.

ERIN

Or maybe he was just pretending
that so he could write this hit
piece and steal all the attention.

BRAD

Conner is not like that.

ERIN

And what about you? Coming up here
all charming... I'm such an idiot.

Erin grabs her purse and heads for the door.

BRAD

Where are you going?

ERIN

I have to find Leigh!

Erin exits quickly leaving Brad alone to try to figure out
what just happened.

133 EXT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - DAY 133

Establishing shot of Leigh and Erin's apartment building.

134 INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S APARTMENT - DAY 134

Erin rushes in to find Leigh sitting on the couch. She has a
tablet computer in her lap and a blank expression on her
face. Erin goes to sit by her and they are silent for a
moment.

LEIGH

It's funny.

ERIN

What is?

LEIGH

How fast it all comes back. I
really didn't think I had gotten
over the breakup... with Danny...

ERIN

(shocked)
You said his name.

LEIGH

(shrugs)
That's the thing. I didn't want to
say his name because I thought it
would hurt too much. I thought I
was still too hurt by everything
that happened.

ERIN

That's understandable...

LEIGH

But see, I wasn't. I was better.
I felt better. About myself, about
my life, about everything... I just
didn't realize it. Until I read
this...

She hands the tablet computer to Erin.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

And now I know how much better I
was... because now I remember what
being hurt really felt like. It
comes back so fast.

*

She starts to cry.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

It's funny, isn't it?

Erin puts her arm around Leigh's shoulder and pulls her close
for comfort.

135 EXT. PETERS POST OFFICES - NIGHT 135

Establishing the Peters Post offices.

136 INT. MILO'S OFFICE - NIGHT 136

Milo is at his desk when Allison comes storming in. She
throws print outs of Conner's article on his desk.

ALLISON

You were just waiting for an
opportunity to stab me in the back,
weren't you?

Milo stands and comes around the desk to meet her.

MILO

Wait! Somehow you're the victim?
I really have to give you credit.
That whole "I'm prepared to lose"
stuff was some award-winning
acting.

ALLISON

So let me guess... Conner's
character assassination piece was
all your idea, right?

MILO
The same way Leigh's hatchet job
was your idea?

ALLISON
What are you talking about? We
haven't posted anything.

MILO
Yeah, but I saw what you were *going*
to post.

He pulls out the pieces of paper he took from Allison's
office and hands them to her.

ALLISON
(shocked)
Oh no... Leigh didn't write this, I
did.

MILO
What?

ALLISON
Leigh wrote this really lovely,
sweet... And I didn't want her to
post it. So I wrote this and was
going to put it up instead. But I
changed my mind!

MILO
I don't believe you.

ALLISON
Where did you find these papers,
Milo?

MILO
(beat)
In the trash.

ALLISON
Because that's where I put them! I
threw them away! I wasn't going to
post this.

Milo sits down heavily in one of the guest chairs.

MILO
(mortified)
Conner's original piece was about
how amazing their date was last
night. And then I showed your
pages to him.

Allison sits down in the other chair next to him.

ALLISON
Of course you did.

MILO
We are terrible people.

ALLISON
The absolute worst.

MILO
They might have been in love.

ALLISON
Or at least heading that way.

MILO
And we ruined it.

ALLISON
Horrible, terrible people.

MILO
So how do we fix it?

They both sit there, stumped.

137

INT. CONNER AND BRAD'S OFFICE - NIGHT

137

Brad is working alone in their office when Allison and Milo show up.

MILO
Brad... we need your help.

Milo walks over and hands him to separate pieces of paper. Brad looks at one for a second and then other.

BRAD
What did you two do?

QUICK CUT TO:

138

INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

138

Erin is working alone in her office when Brad, Milo, and Allison arrive.

BRAD
Erin...

ERIN
 Brad? Get out.
 (sees Milo)
 And you! Get out, too.
 (to Allison)
 And you! Well, you own the place
 so I can't tell you to get out, but
 I'm not very happy with you either.

ALLISON
 That's fair.

BRAD
 Erin, just look at these.

Brad hands her the two sheets of paper. Erin takes them reluctantly and starts to read one, then the other. She looks up at Brad.

ERIN
 (to Brad)
 What did you do?

BRAD
 I didn't do anything!

ALLISON
 We did it. It's our fault. We
 just need to figure out how to make
 it better.

MILO
 What do we say to them that can fix
 this?

Erin considers it for a moment, then smiles.

ERIN
 We don't say anything...

Allison, Milo, and Brad are intrigued.

139 INT. LEIGH AND ERIN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

139

It is later that night and the office is empty as Leigh enters.

LEIGH
 Erin, I got your message, what...

Leigh realizes that Erin is not there. A note is taped to Leigh's computer reading "On the roof."

Leigh sighs and exits the office.

140 INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT 140

Brad and Conner are on the elevator as it goes up.

CONNER

I still don't understand what we're
doing here.

BRAD

Just trust me, okay?

Conner is still suspicious but quiet for the moment.

141 EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES ROOFTOP - NIGHT 141

Brad leads Conner through a door at one end of the roof that has been transformed from the plain, utilitarian space we saw earlier into a romantic wonderland. There is a path, outlined by candles in paper bags, leading from two different doorways across the roof to where they meet in the center at a table, set for a romantic dinner. Twinkle lights adorn various pipes and mechanics and are strung across the top.

Conner stops when he sees all this and Brad moves off to the side of the path. Milo is a little further down and Allison and Erin are alongside the path that leads from the other door.

CONNER

What...?

But he stops when the far door opens and Leigh steps out. She is stunned, especially when she sees Conner.

Erin pulls out a piece of paper and starts reading from it. As she does, Leigh starts walking down the path toward the table in the center. *

ERIN *

(reads) *

"My date with Conner was
unexpected. Not because it turns
out that he's charming and funny.
I had gotten glimpses of those
qualities on our previous dates." *

On the other end of the roof, Brad takes out a piece of paper and starts reading. Conner moves to the center as he does. *

BRAD *

(reads) *

"Leigh's willingness to throw
caution to the wind and accept my
proposal to go out on a spur of the
moment date was probably the
bravest thing I have ever seen
anyone do." *

We go back to Leigh's side as Allison takes over. *

ALLISON *

(reads) *

"The date with Conner unexpected
because it turns out that our
horrible dates really were our
fault. Our scars from past
relationships meant that we weren't
willing to give each other the
benefit of the doubt." *

Over on Conner's side, Milo is taking over reading. *

MILO *

(reads) *

"But Leigh not only accepted this
folly, she embraced it and took a
chance that was probably like
jumping off a very tall bridge with
only a very thin bungee cord
promising a return to normalcy. I
know that's how it felt for me." *

Milo hands Conner a different piece of paper that he takes and reads from just as he reaches the table. *

CONNER

(reads)

"But here's the thing about doubt... It's just a distraction. It's easy to get distracted by the things that don't really matter but that's what makes it all the more exciting... when you can see past those distractions to find the real person standing behind them. I saw Conner for the first time last night... but I'm sure it's not the last."

Leigh steps up to the table to read the end of Conner's post.

LEIGH

(reads)

"Hands clammy, mouths dry, hearts pounding, Leigh and I stood together on the precipice, risking a fall but eagerly anticipating the act of falling... and together we leapt."

Leigh looks up at Conner.

LEIGH (CONT'D)

You wrote this?

He nods and holds up her post.

CONNER

You?

Leigh nods. They move around the table toward one another.

LEIGH

I have a question.

CONNER

Okay.

LEIGH

Can this count as our first real date?

CONNER

(smiles)

Sure.

LEIGH

Then why aren't you giving me that good night kiss right now?

CONNER

Because I'm not ready to say good night. But if you insist...

He smiles again, puts his hand on her cheek and gently, sweetly kisses her.

We slowly PULL BACK to show the full sweep of the rooftop and then FADE TO BLACK.

TITLE CARD: 3 MONTHS LATER

FADE IN:

142 EXT. RICHARDS REVIEW OFFICES - DAY 142

The offices of the Richards Review, only the sign that has been on the building is no longer there.

143 INT. ALLISON'S OFFICE - DAY 143

We start with a champagne cork being popped and PULL BACK to reveal all six of our main characters in Allison's office celebrating. They cheer as Allison pours the champagne.

ERIN

A toast. Somebody has to make a toast.

ALLISON

Conner, you go first.

During the following he references Leigh, then Brad and Erin, and finally Allison and Milo.

CONNER

Okay. Let's see... to... new beginnings, old friends, and strange bedfellows.

They all laugh.

LEIGH

Wait, wait... I've got one. To the end of The Bad Date Chronicles and the beginning of the Real Love Stories column. Non-fiction!

*
*
*
*

Conner smiles and leans over to give Leigh a quick kiss. Brad and Erin do the same.

ALLISON

Okay, enough of this romantic stuff. The real reason we're here celebrating... to the union of the Richards Review and the Peters Post - a partnership.

Milo smiles at her. Allison hoists her glass.

ALLISON (CONT'D)

To the Richards & Peters Report!

Milo's smile fades.

MILO

Wait, what? Why does your name go first?

ALLISON

We talked about this. Our site has been around longer.

MILO

Yes, but we have a more engaged audience.

ALLISON

Since when? Our audience is plenty engaged!

Leigh and Conner back away from Milo and Allison as they continue to bicker. *

LEIGH

(quietly to Conner) *

How long until they realize that they're in love with each other?

CONNER

Maybe we just need to set them up on a bad date. *

LEIGH

Why? *

CONNER

Because you need a few bad dates to know what the really good ones are like. *

Leigh smiles and puts her arms around Conner and they kiss. *

FADE TO BLACK