

SCENE TWO

(AS LIGHTS GO DOWN. WHEN LIGHTS COME BACK UP FOR THIS SECOND SCENE, THE THERAPIST WILL BE THE MATCH-MAKING FRIEND IN QUESTION, AND SHE WILL BE JOINED NOW BY C, D, E)

BRIAN:

She did it as a favor, believe it or not. They were roommates. You've never seen so many women living in one apartment. When I got there, there were women everywhere you looked. A, my friend, then this other girl, E, then these two others, C, D. Well, anyway, when I got there, B—OF COURSE-- was late. It was all these women, and me.

A:

You'll love her, Brian.

BRIAN:

(TO E) And you think so too?

E:

Great.

BRIAN:

Wow, bring her on.

D:

I can't imagine what's keeping her.

C:

She's probably still at Weight Watchers.

A:

(TO C) Now see what you've done?

D:

(*TO BRIAN*) Can't you tell when you're being teased?

BRIAN:

You're teasing—right?

C:

She's perfect for you.

BRIAN:

Yeah? Well, frankly—I'm not sure—Maybe this wasn't--

A:

Just be forthright about yourself, Brian.

E:

Kevin wasn't forthright.

D:

Not too forthright, of course.

C:

About yourself, we mean.

E:

Actually, more *honest* than forthright--

D:

If you know what we mean.

A:

Just not brutally honest.

E:

Exactly.

C:

Just not brutally honest.

E:

What we're saying is—

C:

Don't be yourself.

BRIAN:

Then who should I be?

E:

A told her you were a teacher.

A:

A professor, actually.

BRIAN:

You what?

E:

Kevin's getting his Ph.D. in Renaissance Polyphony.

A:

Did you call B and speak to her?

E:

In advance?

A:

Like I asked you to?

E:

The main thing is, Don't be confrontational.

A:

Exactly.

E:

If you can see it's going badly?

C:

Put all the blame on yourself.

BRIAN:

What?

A:

You know, like, "It's clear I don't possess what you need in a man—"

E:

An open prescription for Prozac, in B's case.

A:

"So I think we should just move on."

E:

If you want to end the date and bring her back early.

A:

Not that that will help.

D:

After what she's been through with Kevin?

C:

The minute she realizes that you're the DUMP-PER and she's the DUMP-PEE?

E:

Watch out!

D:

Because then you're a rat.

BRIAN:

I'm a rat?

A:

Oh yeah. No matter how you go about it.

E:

Because she's the woman.

A:

And you're the man.

E:

And it's her right—

C:

As a woman—

E:

Never to be rejected—

A:

Or offended—

E:

While you—

A:

Since you're the man?

C:

Are a rat.

E:

See how it works?

D:

I can't believe you didn't know this.

BRIAN:

Let me see if I'm getting all this.

A:

Any emotional decision is hers to make.

BRIAN:

Since she's the woman.

D:

Actually, because she's the woman and you're the man?

C:

ANY decision is hers to make.

A:

Not just the emotional ones.

BRIAN:

It's not easy being the man in these things, is it.