Nobody's Perfect
by
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Synopsis:

Donna and Reed are on a blind date. As the two strangers attempt to explore each other's personality, their idiosyncrasies become more and more glaring. During the verbal intercourse, we the audience hear each individual's thoughts through asides as both the good and the ugly appear. In the end, both Donna and Reed ask the question: "How much am I willing to put up with in a relationship?" They'll both find out that nobody's perfect!

CHARACTERS

DONNA
On a blind date with Reed. Open minded, patient, and very grounded. Through her asides we hear her thoughts. She thinks she’s attracted to Reed.

REED
On a blind date with Donna. A little self-absorbed with a dash of A.D.D. thrown in. Overall, a good guy. He thinks he’s attracted to Donna.
Lights up on a table at a coffee shop. REED and DONNA sit in silence. They both smile at each other. REED picks up his coffee and slurps it. After DONNA looks at him, he stops. Beat.

DONNA
So, how’s your...

REED
I was over at the...

DONNA
What do you think of...

REED
Everybody tells me that...

DONNA
Everyone believes in the...

REED
An Arabian Oryx is actually...

DONNA & REED
(Aside.) We both apologize.

DONNA
(Aside.) Cordially.

REED
(Aside.) We apologize cordially.

Sorry.

REED
Go ahead.

DONNA
No, please.

REED
I’m sorry.

DONNA
I don’t usually go on blind dates.

REED
Neither do I.

DONNA
Well, there’s a first for everything.

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

(Aside.) I’m nervous, so I give him the floor with eagerness.

REED

(Aside.) I take the floor. I talk about my career.

DONNA

(with disinterest)

(Aside.) He talks about his career.

REED

Golderg and Riching are done with. A strong showing in the market and they’re ours. Our company will be within the Fortune 500 in the next five months.

DONNA

(Aside) I fain to be interested.

REED

200 stock shares.

DONNA

Uh-huh.

REED

A split in my 401K

DONNA

Uh-huh.

REED

I’m moving up very fast in the company alright.

DONNA

Hmm.

REED

(Aside.) She’s impressed.

DONNA

(Aside.) I’m not impressed.

REED

(Aside.) We stop talking.

DONNA

(Aside.) We stop talking.

DONNA & REED

(Aside.) Silence.
DONNA
(Aside.) He talks about himself, again.

REED
(Aside.) I talk about myself. (To DONNA.) Yadda, yadda, yadda. (Aside.) She’s very interested.

DONNA
(Aside.) I’m not interested.

REED
(Aside.) I tell her how much I make. (To DONNA.) Yada, yada, yada.

DONNA
(Changing her tune.) (Aside.) I’m impressed.

REED
(Aside.) She’s impressed. We stop talking.

DONNA & REED
(Aside.) Silence.

REED
Robots made of aluminum are good at...

DONNA
Bak choy is very high in niacin...

REED
Have you tried the octopuss...

DONNA
I hear that Pitcharin Island is...

REED
I’m sorry, I hope that you didn’t think that...

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

Beat.

REED
(Aside.) I apologize again. (To DONNA.) Sorry.

DONNA
(Aside.) I apologize again, but with less patience. (To REED.) Sorry.
REED
(Aside.) I compliment her on her appearance. (To DONNA.) That dress really makes your eyes shine. You have beautiful features.

DONNA
(Aside.) I let him go on.

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

DONNA
Up?

REED
Yeah.

DONNA & REED
(Aside.) We laugh. (To each other.) Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha....

DONNA
(Aside.) I’m feeling a little better about this.

REED
(Aside.) I’m feeling a little better about this.

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

REED
You don’t say.

DONNA
(Aside.) So, I decide to go for it.

REED
(Aside.) I decide to go for it.

REED begins to lean in for a kiss when DONNA stops him by forming her lips into a fish. She emits a strange sound. REED stops in his tracks. She laughs, very amused.

DONNA
(Aside.) She laughs.

REED
(Aside.) She ruins the mood.
DONNA
Anyhow, I’m sure you are repulsed by my strange lips maneuver.

REED
(Aside.) This is when I do what all mean do. (To DONNA.) No, I think it’s really... Cute. (Aside.) I lie.

You do?

REED
(Aside.) I lie some more. (To DONNA.) No, I think that it’s very unique. It’s very interesting. There aren’t many woman in the world that can do... That.

DONNA & REED
(Aside.) More silence.

DONNA
You know the Gutenberg Press is what I did my Master’s Thesis on and...

REED
(Not paying attention.)
What was that?

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

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

DONNA
(A little attitude.)
You’re pretty athletic huh?

REED
Well...

DONNA
I’m sorry. That was rude.

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

DONNA
(Aside.) I’m genuinely interested in talking now. (To REED.) You’ve heard of the Gutenberg Press?
It’s the basis of the modern printing press. Johannes Gutenberg was a German goldsmith and inventor best known for the Gutenberg press, an innovative printing machine that used movable type.

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

DONNA
Steve Guttenberg?

REED
The movie actor from the 80’s. Steve Guttenberg. The Steve Guttenberg Printing Press.

He laughs. She does not.

REED
(Aside.) I told a joke. It was hilarious.

DONNA
(Aside.) It was stupid.

REED
(Aside.) Alright it was stupid.

DONNA
(Aside.) I offer a delayed fake laugh. (She laughs, fake, then aside.) It was still a stupid joke.

REED
(Aside.) It was a stupid joke. (To DONNA.) I’m sorry about that. That was rude. I apologize. I’m sorry.

DONNA
(Aside.) He’s sorry. I accept his apology. (To DONNA.) Don’t worry about it.

REED
No, really. Please go on. I’m just a little nervous about this whole blind date thing, especially around such a beautiful woman...

DONNA
(Aside.) He called me beautiful.

REED
...that’s so smart and intelligent...

DONNA
(Aside.) He called me intelligent.
REED
And loves what she does for a living.

DONNA
(Aside.) He’s on a roll.

REED
Even if it is just working for the public school system.

DONNA
(Aside.) He just dug a ditch.

REED
With very low pay.

DONNA
(Aside.) And he’s placing himself in that grave right now.

REED
Look, Donna, I’m sorry. I don’t mean it like that.

DONNA
(Aside.) He’s backpedaling.

REED
That came out the wrong way.

DONNA
(Aside.) I’m listening.

REED
What I mean is that you do a wonderful job. Something that very few people are even capable of doing. I mean teaching elementary school. That’s incredible. Teaching young people knowledge that they will carry for the rest of their lives. And if you enjoy it, the amount of money you make really doesn’t matter. Not one bit.

DONNA
(Aside.) Okay, we’re back to square one.

REED
So, please tell me more about the Gutenberg Press. I don’t mean to sound disinterested. It’s just that I’m a little bit intimidated by woman that are smarter than me.

DONNA
(Aside.) I can control him.

REED
I mean, most woman are so easily swayed on their opinions and I find intelligence very attractive.
DONNA
(Aside.) Even manipulate him.

REED
But I am genuinely interested in what you have to say.

They two look at each other. They smile. Beat.

DONNA
(Aside.) I think he’s genuinely interested.

REED
(Aside.) I’m genuinely interested.

DONNA
Okay. Well, thank you for the... Compliments.

REED
You’re welcome. Now please, go ahead.

DONNA
Thank you. Johannes Gutenberg, a goldsmith and businessman from the mining town of Mainz in southern Germany, borrowed money to develop a technology that changed the world of communication. The printing press had developed from the wine press in the Rhine Valley and it was there in 1440 that Johannes Gutenberg began using the printing press in conjunction with a series of blocks each bearing a single letter on its face.

REED yawns.

DONNA
The implications of the printed word are vast. There are those who argue that Martin Luther and the Protestant revolution could not have taken place if it were not for the printing press. While this is not entirely valid, the press and the already wide distribution of books and other printed matter in Luther's time certainly added to the distribution of his ideas and work. In the shifts in the world from the mid 15th century to the end of the 18th century, it is possible to trace the divergence of science from religion and the opening up of the new world to the vast stretches of...

REED
(Interrupting.)
Police Academy 4 was awesome don’t you think? Steve Guttenberg was so funny in that film!

DONNA
(Aside.) He has A.D.D.
I liked *Three Men and a Baby* too. It was directed by the same guy that played Mr. Spock...

*DONNA*  
(Interrupting as she stands.)  
You know I have to get back to my dog. He’s been inside for most of the evening.

*REED*  
What kind of a dog do you have?

*DONNA*  
A black Lab.

*REED*  
(Aside.) So do I. (To DONNA.) So, do I.  
Really?

*DONNA*  
What’s his name?

*REED*  
Calamari.

*DONNA*  
Calamari?

*REDD*  
Well, yes you see we found him on the beach near this fish restaurant in Massachusetts and so we just named him... Calamari.

*REED*  
We?

*DONNA*  
Sorry. My ex-husband.

*REED*  
Ex-wife myself.

*DONNA*  
(She sits back down.)  
Really?

*REED*  
Yeah.

*DONNA*  
What’s your dog’s name?
REED
Chuckles Sedgwick the III.

DONNA laughs.

DONNA
That’s quite a name for a dog.

REED
I could say the same thing about yours.

DONNA

REED
(Aside.) I think I’m interested in her.

DONNA
(Aside.) I make a gesture. (To REED.) Well, I should probably get back and feed him and let him outside.

REED
(Aside.) I’m bold. (To DONNA.) Would you like some help? (Aside.) Did I just say that? Was I being too bold?

DONNA & REED
(Aside.) I think about the last few minutes.

DONNA
(Aside.) He slurps his coffee.

REED
(Aside.) She makes strange fish faces..

DONNA
(Aside.) He’s a jock. A Neanderthal.

REED
(Aside.) She’s a brainiac.

DONNA
(Aside.) He has A.D.D.

REED
(Aside.) She wears too much make-up.

DONNA
(Aside.) Still, he’s kind of cute.

REED
(Aside.) She’s very pretty.
DONNA
(Aside.) And does give nice compliments.

REED
(Aside.) She has a dog.

DONNA
(Aside.) And he makes a LOT of money.

REED
(Aside.) And she’s very smart. (He smiles.) She’s very intelligent.

DONNA
(Smiling.)
(Aside.) And he makes a LOT of money.

They both look at each other, trying to read each other’s thoughts.

DONNA
Well...

REED
Well. What do you say?

DONNA
(With a smile.)
Sure. Why not?

They stand up. REED offered his arm, DONNA takes it.

DONNA & REED
(Aside.) After all. Nobody’s perfect.

They exit.

End of play.