

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID

A Play in Ten Minutes

SETTING: an open area that can become many places. TIME: the late afternoon.

(The lights rise on JACK. He's preparing for a date, and he speaks to the audience.)

JACK

My buddy, Ryan, set me up for this stupid date. He's dating this one chick whose sister's been having a rough time finding a guy, so he begged me to take her out tonight. Give him and his girlfriend a chance to—you know.

(The lights rise on JANET, speaking to the audience.)

JANET

My sister, Melissa, set me up for this stupid date. She's dating this one guy who has a friend that has apparently been unbearable to be with since his last girlfriend dumped him. I guess he never leaves the two of them alone now. Melissa begged me to take out this guy tonight so she and her boyfriend could—you know.

JACK

Her name's Janet.

JANET

His name's Jack.

JACK & JANET

How plain.

JACK

I said I'd pick her up at seven.

JANET

I told him to pick me up at seven. Sharp. It's like my mom always says: "If he's late for your first date, you'll be late for your monthly date."

JACK

I left early, in case of traffic. Good thing, 'cause there was a detour from the new construction. I showed up to her door at 6:57.

JANET

He came to my door at 6:57.

JACK & JANET

I/He rang the doorbell.

JANET

I made him sweat it out until seven.

JACK

I waited, like, five minutes.

JACK & JANET

Whatever. She's/He's probably ugly anyway.(They meet.)
Or maybe not.

JACK

Hey. I'm Jack.

JANET

Janet.

JACK

You ready?

JANET

Yep.

(Beat.)

Where are the reservations?

JACK

Oh, this old diner down by Third Street. It's cozy.

JACK & JANET

(To the audience.)

A traditional first date spot.

JANET

I can practically smell the other girls he's taken there. Barf.

(They sit next to each other, as if in a car.)

JACK

It wasn't a long drive. Only a few minutes.

JANET

(To JACK.)

This car yours?

JACK

(To the audience.)
They always love a sports car.
(To JANET.)
Yeah.

(They turn to the audience.)

JACK & JANET

I/He was lying.

JACK

I only like to take it out for special occasions.

JANET

Oh. How nice.

(They turn to the audience.)

JACK

Score one for me.

JANET

What a moron.

(JACK rises and crosses to the other side of JANET.)

JACK

When we got to the diner, I opened her car door for her.

JANET

(To JACK.)
Thank you.
(To the audience.)
At least he can do something right.

(They turn to each other.)

JACK

We're at the corner table.

JANET

Oh! I always like corner seats. I like being able to see everyone else, but—

JACK

Not have everyone else see you? Me too.

(JACK pulls out JANET's chair.)

After you.

JANET

Thank you.

(JANET sits. JACK sits across from her. Beat. JANET turns to the audience.)

Well, I guess dinner conversation isn't a taught skill.

JACK

So. What're you in the mood for?

JANET

What's good?

JACK

They have the best burgers. But their seafood is good, too. And their pasta.

JANET

Come here often?

JACK

Just with old friends.

(They turn to the audience.)

JACK & JANET

Old girlfriends.

JANET THE WAITER CAME.

JACK

I asked for a burger and fries.

JANET

I ordered their chicken salad.

(They turn to each other.)

JACK

That's it? Just a salad?

JANET

I don't eat much.

(They turn away from each other.)

JACK

The dinner was okay. We talked a bit about what we did in a normal week, movies we like—

JANET

He shared a little too much. He even told me about the imaginary friend he had in third grade.

JACK AND JANET

Mr. Doodle, the talking pen.

JANET

A talking pen!

JACK

You know, the regular stuff. Until after we finished eating.

(They turn to each other.)

That's it? That's all you're going to eat? That was barely a bowl full.

JANET

I told you, I don't eat much.

JACK

Rabbits eat more salad than that.

JANET

Just drop it. It's no big deal.

JACK

But you ate a couple leafs and a chunk of chicken—

JANET

Drop it. Uh—tell me something personal.

JACK

Hmm?

JANET

Tell me something personal. A story or something. Something embarrassing.

JACK

Why?

JANET

That's how dates work.

Eat something else. JACK

No. JANET

Then I'm not telling any stories. JACK

Then we should just get the check. JANET

Not gonna pay until you eat a bit more. JACK

(She reaches to signal the waiter, and he stops her hand. Beat. They turn to the audience.)

Men always push harder than they should. JANET

Women always make you push harder than you should. JACK
(They turn to each other.)

Fine. Lasagna, then. JANET

What do you want to want to know? JACK

I don't know. Something embarrassing. JANET

(They turn to the audience.)

I told her about how I ran my truck into a toll booth, because I was on my cell phone. JACK

Who hasn't? JANET

JACKHOW MY BROTHER LEAKED THE STORY OF ME PEEING THE BED.

Too juvenile. JANET

After my prom.

JACK

But funny.

JANET

How I was called “Jack-O-Lantern” in high school because I had to wear those huge braces.

JACK

Too—
(To JACK.)
Wait, what? “Jack-O-Lantern?”

JANET

(JANET begins to laugh. JACK looks to her.)

It's not funny.

JACK

(To the audience.)
It's not funny.

JANET

You shouldn't be laughing.

JACK

I shouldn't be laughing.

JANET

(They look at each other. JACK laughs.)

It is a little funny.

JACK

It's a lot funny.

JANET

Okay, your turn.

JACK

What?

JANET

Tell me something embarrassing.

JACK

I don't have any stories. JANET

Fine. A nickname, then. JACK

I don't have those. JANET

None at all? JACK

None. JANET

(They turn to the audience.)

She was lying. JACK

I was lying. JANET

(They turn to each other.)

Come on. I told you mine, what was yours? JACK

I don't want to talk about it. JANET

C'mon! What? Mary Jane? JACK

I'm not a drug addict. JANET

Can-can Jan? JACK

I'm not a sex symbol. JANET

Then what? You can tell me. JACK

(Beat.)

JANET
Janet the Planet.

JACK
(Begins to laugh.)
Janet... the Planet?

JANET
It's not funny.

JACK
(To the audience.)
It's not funny.

JANET
You shouldn't be laughing.

JACK
I shouldn't be laughing.

JANET
I'm leaving.

(JANET stands. JACK stops her.)

JACK
But it's so ridiculous! Look at you! You're smaller than that salad you ate!

JANET
I—what?

JACK
It's funny! You're so tiny!

JANET
I didn't use to be.

JACK
No? Did the scale even recognize you?

JANET
I was a bit—bigger.

JACK

Yeah?

JANET

My arms had a little jiggle.

(She begins to laugh, making JACK laugh more.)

And my hips were a little bulgy. I swear objects used to orbit me.

(They turn to the audience.)

JACK & JANET

You/I had your/my own gravitational force!

(They laugh loudly. They connect.)

JACK

We laughed for a bit, but then her lasagna came and, well...

JANET

The waiter thought we were nuts.

JACK

The rest of the dinner was pretty light after that.

JANET

We must have sat at that table for hours.

JACK & JANET

Until we finally left.

(They put the chairs aside and arrive at the front door of JANET's house.)

JANET

He took me back to my place. He took a detour so we could have more time to talk.

JACK & JANET

She's/He's a pretty interesting girl. And good looking.

JACK

We ended up at her doorstep.

(They turn to each other.)

JANET

Thanks for tonight. It was fun.

JACK

Yeah. Maybe we should—uh—get together again sometime.

JANET

I'd like that.

*(Beat. They turn to the audience.)*JACK & Janet
What is she/he waiting for?

(They turn to each other.)

JACK

Well, good night.

JANET

Uh—good night.

(JACK stands there. Beat. JANET turns to go inside, but JACK grabs her arm. JANET turns around. They kiss.)

JACK & JANET

Wow. Good night.

(The lights fade to black.)

END OF PLAY