

Saving the Date

*A play in one scene,
by Scott Ward Abernethy*

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Casey- late 20's/early 30's. Huge heart, high energy. Her emotions are large, but earnest, a very young soul.

Athena- late 20's/early 30's. More Cynical than Casey, she considers herself to be the "smart one". Cares for Casey, but loses patience easily.

***All character genders, pronouns, and role associations may be changed as desired*

Interior. A nicely kept apartment living room with mostly ikea furniture, and an art deco clock on the back wall, a few feet from the door. As lights come up, we see Athena, dressed to stay in, but made-up, sitting on the couch and enjoying a flirty text conversation on her phone. After a few moments, Casey enters from the hall, ready to go out, but unsure. She lingers between the couch and the door for a beat before...

Casey:

Heeeeeey... So, what are you thinking for dinner?

Athena:

(Startled, hides her phone) Dunno. Probably just order Golden House. *(suspicious)* Why?

Casey:

Just... asking. Chinese sounds good.

Athena:

You have a date.

Casey:

(guilty pause) Maybe./

Athena:

CASEY! NOOOOOOOOOOOOO

Casey:

Stop! Athena Stop stop stop. I'm just, like, having second thoughts.

Athena:

I'm shocked.

Casey:

That's not fair.

Athena:

Oh no?

Casey:

No! I have every right to change my mind about a date.../

Athena:

uh huh.

Casey:

“Uh huh” Is right, I’m just not as sure as I was this morning. Does Golden house have Pad See Yeu?

Athena:

Why though?

Casey:

I had chinese two days ago.

Athena:

No. Why aren’t you interested anymore?

Casey:

I didn’t say *that*, I’m still deciding if I want to cancel.

Athena:

Fuck that.

Casey:

Rude!

Athena:

No Casey. Fuck that. This is the fourth time this month./

Casey:

Where is this coming from?/

Athena:

Casey. You complain about being single literally every day. Every. Day. I know you are still broken up over (Sotto voice, *off Casey’s look*) “Him”, but you bailed on three *pretty* cool people already this month. I know you want to heal, but from my perspective, it is just a little exhausting. That’s all.

Casey:

I know, I know. But like, what if there is a dealbreaker?

Athena:

Aha, I knew it. Have you actually cancelled?

Casey:

No.

Athena:

So what's the problem?

Casey:

I'm not sure I can say. It's embarrassing...

Athena:

Embarrassing? The last dealbreaker you gave me was "haircut." Isn't your movie at seven? Casey, look at the clock, its six-fucking-thirty-five.

Casey:

Please don't curse at me.

Athena:

Don't be lame.

Casey:

He has a kid.

(Beat)

Athena:

Fuck.

Casey:

Athena.

Athena:

Sorry. *(Pause)*. That's a deal breaker for you?

Casey:

I'm honestly not sure.

Athena:

Right. Right right right. (*Finishes a message on her phone, and sets it down*) So. Talk?

Casey:

Yes, please. Should I cancel first?

Athena:

Let's not. You are already dressed, and you can walk to the Regal in 10 minutes, right?

Casey:

Right, but he's probably already on his way.

Athena:

Yeah, so it's too late for it to make much of a difference anyway. I'm sorry I came at you like that, let's just (*deep breath*) let it go. Start from scratch. We have time, we can work through whatever this is in 10 minutes. Positivity first. What do you like about... err...

Casey:

Devyn

Athena:

Devyn. With a "Y"?

Casey:

Oh yeah.

Athena:

That's hot. First one down. What ELSE do you like about Devyn? Why did you say yes?

Casey:

Well. He is for sure cute. No, handsome! It might just be the beard, but his jaw seems really strong. Plus, he's husky. The good husky, not the bad husky. Obviously.

Athena:

Obviously./

Casey:

He's also really sweet. I think so anyway. Like, we've known each other for a few weeks now, he's one of the independent contractors they brought in, and we flirted a little first. He didn't ask me out point blank like that last guy. He was so approachable, like, he made me feel totally calm around him, even when he asked me out. Professional dress, but like, not pretentious; he's a

necktie guy and had a different tie everyday, but tasteful, not *wacky*. And... he said, like, the nicest thing to me before he asked me out. He just walked over to me — really grounded, he has a really *grounded* walk, so sexy — and he told me he liked the way I think. What he said was, “Watching you work has been pretty incredible, you focus so completely on everything you're doing, you totally light up.”

Athena:

Smooth.

Casey:

But he meant it! He was shy when he asked me out, I felt... appreciated.

Athena:

Wow. Heavy stuff Casey. When did he mention the kid?

Casey:

Today. We were texting about tonight and joking about cold feet and he said he already paid for the sitter.

Athena:

oof.

Casey:

Seriously, so... I asked, and he seemed really apologetic that he forgot to mention it, and I panicked and told him it was fine.

Athena:

How old?

Casey:

I think early thirties?

Athena:

No, the Kid.

Casey:

He said first grade? A daughter.

Athena:

Mother?

Casey:

I don't know! I couldn't bring myself to ask over text.

Athena:

No, that's good. First grade is a good age. He does sound pretty great.

Casey:

yeah.

Athena:

You broke things off with Leon because you wanted a family, right?

Casey:

DON'T SAY HIS NAME! That *and* he cheated on me, but yeah. I do. I really do want a family.

Athena:

So what's the problem? Do you just not want someone else? I *totally* get that!

Casey:

It's not that, exactly... It's just...If her mother is around I can't compete with that. OR — what if we have another? Would she hate it, or worse! What if I loved mine more? She would know, she would see right through me and be traumatized for the rest of her life! I don't want to steal a little girl's father, Athena! What if she called me by my first name? OH MY GOD I would be an evil step-mother!

Athena:

Woah! Casey it's not....ook... I have step parents and half brothers, remember? And I turned out *mostly* fine...

Casey:

Oh I forgot, I'm so sorry!

Athena:

It's fine, it's... whatever. With my family, I knew where I ranked, that's true, but there was still love. Say what you will, but my stepmom is a good person, and/

Casey:

But am I?

Athena:

Casey...

Casey:

Am I a good person? Seriously. I am a *total* mess, Athena. Take right now for an example. Plus... I'm dumb.

Athena:

C'mon.

Casey:

Don't. I'm *kinda* dumb. I know it, I know you think so, and you're right.

Athena:

OMG, it's quarter of seven, you need to go!

Casey:

(rushing to her jacket to grab her phone) I need to cancel. I've already made him waste enough time away from his precious little girl.

Athena:

(covering the phone and guiding Casey back to the couch) no, no, NO! Wait. Wait. Wait. Let's try something. Ok? Try something with me?

Casey:

Ok...

Athena:

Just pretend for a second that I'm a little girl, right? and I just got home from first grade/

Casey:

right...

Athena:

/BUT I'm in trouble at school, so I'm sad.

Casey:

What happened?

Athena:

uhh... I cheated. On a spelling test. *(Child voice, full character)* I cheated on my spelling test.

Casey:

Oh. Oh no. Oh, sweetie, why did you do that?

Athena:

I didn't know the answers and everyone was doing better than me...

Casey:

Oh, honey! (*Casey opens her arms and in spite of herself Athena is embraced by them*) I know how that feels, but you should never do that, ever.

Athena:

Even if I don't get caught?

Casey:

Especially then! It's ok if you fail sometimes, but when you lie or cheat it's like throwing a little piece of yourself away, a little piece you'll never get to see or understand because you never even gave it a chance. You don't need to have what anyone else has, I love you just how you are, and I don't want to lose a single piece over just one spelling test. Not ever!

(Casey rocks her pretend daughter back and forth for a few moments of loving silence. Athena is speechless.)

Athena:

Well.

Casey:

Was that alright?

Athena:

yes. That was ...*good*.

Casey:

Really!?

Athena:

Yup, that was really something.

Casey:

You think I would be a good mom?

Athena:

I mean, this is only the first date, but...I do. Yes.

(Beat. They beam at one another, though Athena is a little restrained)

Casey:

OH my goodness! I need to go! (*She hugs Athena again*) Thank you so much, you are the absolute best. Wish me luck!

Athena:

Anytime.

(Casey leaves. Athena is frozen on the couch for a single beat when the door explodes open again.)

Casey:

Athena...

Athena:

Yeah.

Casey:

I think you're a good mom too.

(Casey exits again with a smile. Athena is left alone again, seeming on the verge of a nervous breakdown. She is doing her best to contain it, wiping tears from her eyes when her phone rings.)

Athena:

Hey Leon. Yeah... coast is clear.

(Black out)

END OF PLAY