

The scenes from Check, Please present examples of really bad blind dates. A blind date is a date where the people have not met before. Read the scenes and answer the questions that follow.

from **Check, Please**

by Jonathan Rand

SCENE 3

GIRL: Hi.

KEN: Hello.

(He kisses her hand, lingering there a second too long.)

GIRL: It's great to meet you.

5 KEN: The pleasure . . . is all mine.

GIRL: So . . . where are you from? I can't place the accent.

KEN: I was raised in the mountains of Guam . . . and was born . . . on the shore of New Jersey.

(Beat.)

GIRL: Do you want to order some appetizers?

10 KEN: Anything . . . which will ensure happiness for your beautiful lips.

(He looks at the menu, unaware of her subtle look of disbelief. She finally looks down at her menu.)

GIRL: Ooh! The shrimp cocktail looks good.

15 KEN: Shrimp . . . a creature of the ocean. The ocean . . . which is not nearly as lovely as
the ocean of your eyes.

(Pause.)

GIRL: Listen, can I ask you sort of a . . . barbed question?

KEN: Anything which your heart desires will be—

GIRL: Yeah, yeah. So—are you going to be doing this for the rest of dinner?

20 KEN: Whatever do you mean?

GIRL: All of this . . . sketchy, provocative* garbage?

(Pause.)

KEN: Yes.

(Scene.)

* *provocative* — likely to cause a reaction

SCENE 4

25 GUY: Hi.

MARY: Hi.

GUY: It's so great to finally meet you.

MARY: Same here! Listen: I was wondering if you were free next Friday.

GUY: Ah, I think so. Why?

30 MARY: Well, if dinner goes well tonight, I wanted to go ahead and line up a second date.

GUY: Oh. Okay, sure.

MARY: See, 'cause here's the thing: My parents are having a housewarming party at their new place on August second, and if you and I hit it off tonight and end up seriously dating, that party would be the perfect opportunity for you to meet my parents. So naturally I'd like to squeeze in several healthy-sized dates before then. If we don't, my parents might be a little bit skeptical of our relationship, which could in turn be disastrous for our future when you eventually pop the question. Not only would it make my whole family uncertain and uncomfortable during the ceremony, but it would also most likely carry over during our sixteen-day honeymoon in St. Martin. Even more importantly, it would be just awful if you had to deal with skeptical in-laws during the years down the road, and all because of a little thing like not setting aside fourteen healthy-sized dates before the housewarming party. Think about how a family conflict like that could upset Jocelyn.

GUY: Jocelyn?

45 MARY: Our little darling. Middle child. Bryan first, then Jocelyn, and of course little Madison.

(Pause.)

GUY: Wow . . .

MARY: What? What is it? You don't like the name Madison?

50 GUY: What? No. I mean, yes. No, that's a great name.

MARY: Something's on your mind. Honey, you can tell me. You're talking to your little sugar pumpkin, remember? Tell me.

GUY: Well, it's just—You just seem to have our whole relationship figured out—and we just met thirty seconds ago. *(Chuckling a little.)* I mean, you've got everything pinned down but the wedding dress.

MARY: Does that make you uncomfortable?

(Beat.)

(As she withdraws several boxes.) Because if it does, we can pick it out now.

(Scene.)

SCENE 5

60 *(Lights up to MARK dressed in nothing but a burlap sack. He's looking at the menu, as if nothing is out of the ordinary. GIRL is looking at him, expressionless. After several moments, he folds the menu, his dinner decision made. He looks up. Pause.)*

MARK: *(Innocent.)* What?

(Scene.)

SCENE 6

65 GUY: Hi.

PEARL: Hi.

GUY: It's so nice to meet you.

PEARL: Same here. Julia's told me a lot about you.

GUY: She's a great girl.

70 *(The moment GUY begins speaking the above line, PEARL quickly and slickly steals a fork. GUY thinks he saw wrong. PEARL continues on as if nothing has happened.)*

PEARL: Yeah. So much fun to be around. We've been friends for something like, oh, I don't know . . . six years?

GUY: *(As PEARL quickly steals the rest of the utensils.)* Where'd you two meet? In school?

75 PEARL: Yeah. We played soccer together. Both second stringers, keeping the bench nice and toasty for the rest of the team.

(They laugh together. During their laugh, PEARL swipes her napkin.)

Honestly? Julia is one of my favorite girlfriends. And she's got great taste, so when she told me about you, I was definitely all about it.

80 *(The moment GUY begins speaking the next line, PEARL swiftly and deftly removes the flower from the vase, pours the contents of her glass into the vase, pockets the glass, and replaces the flower in the vase.)*

GUY: That's very—sweet . . .

PEARL: No, I'm serious. I've been looking forward to this for a while now.

85 GUY: *(As PEARL takes the flower.)* I'm flattered.

PEARL: So . . . you hungry? I'm about ready.

(PEARL picks up her menu; GUY does likewise. The moment GUY begins speaking, PEARL slides the menu into her jacket.)

90 GUY: I'm pretty hungry, too—you know, I can see that you're stealing. You don't have to play it off like you're not.

PEARL: What? What are you talking about?

GUY: *(As PEARL steals a plate.)* I'm sitting right here. See? There. You just stole a plate.

PEARL: I don't understand. That's such a cruel accusation.

95 GUY: (*As PEARL steals sugar holder.*) Accusation?! I'm watching you steal those sugar packets right now? How can you honestly believe I don't notice?

PEARL: (*Starting to leave.*) Look, I don't know what your beef is with me as a person, but this is really insulting. I think we'll have to do this another time.

GUY: Wait. Listen. This is really silly. If you'll stop stealing things, I won't insult you. That's all. Then we can have a perfectly normal dinner. Okay?

100 (*Resolved, PEARL collects herself and moves back toward the table.*)

GUY: Great, so—

(*She whips the tablecloth off the table and starts stuffing it down her pants. Halfway through, she looks up at GUY's reaction.*)

PEARL: WHAT NOW?

105 (*Scene.*)

SCENE 7

(*GIRL is sitting across from TOD, a little boy—regardless of the age of the actor portraying this role, it should be immediately and abundantly clear that TOD is far too young for GIRL. A long pause.*)

GIRL: This may sound insensitive, but . . . how old are you?

110 TOD: What's yer favorite animal?

GIRL: No, no. I'm serious. I really want to know your age.

TOD: I like elephants.

GIRL: I think there's been a misunderstanding. See, when Christy said that you were still in school, I assumed she meant—

115 (*She is suddenly interrupted by TOD's elephant impression. Beat.*)

GIRL: That's very . . . lifelike.

TOD: Do you have a scar?

GIRL: No.

TOD: I have a scar! Do you want to see it?

120 GIRL: No, that's all right.

(*Before she can finish her thought, TOD throws his leg up on the table, rolls up his pant leg, and shows the scar on his knee.*)

TOD: I got it from kickball. Do you see it?

GIRL: No.

125 TOD: It's right there.

GIRL: Oh, I trust you.

(*He removes his leg from the table.*)

GIRL: Honestly, how old are you?

TOD: (*A quick display on his fingers.*) This many. Will you be my girlfriend?

130 GIRL: Your girlfriend.

TOD: 'Cause Katie Johnson always brings a boring lunch to school and Courtney Shuler smells like horses.

GIRL: You've got a lot of girlfriends.

TOD: Yeah, will you be my girlfriend?

135 GIRL: (*Sarcastically giving in.*) Sure, why not . . . I'd be honored to be one of your girlfriends. But only if you pay for dinner.

TOD: Okay.

(*He produces a huge piggy bank and begins emptying change. Scene.*)

SCENE 8

(*SOPHIE enters the restaurant. She is a very old woman, edging toward the table in a walker.*

140 GUY *just stares. Scene.*)