

INT.- SMALL CAFE. THERE IS A TABLE FOR TWO IN THE CENTRE OF THE STAGE. ON IT, THERE IS A NAPKIN HOLDER AND A COUPLE OF PAPER MENUS, INDICATING THE CASUALNESS OF THE PLACE. MARTY, EARLY 30'S IS ANXIOUSLY AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF HIS DATE. HE IS DRESSED IN BUSINESS SLACKS AND A SHORT SLEEVE DRESS SHIRT WITH A MATCHING TIE.

Fran, early 30's, looking like Madonna meets Flashdance, enters.

MARTY  
(getting up from his seat to  
extend his hand)

Hi.

FRAN

Waiting long?

MARTY

A few minutes.

FRAN

I never know whether I should show up late or right on time.

MARTY

There's an art to it.

FRAN

What do you mean?

MARTY

It's hard enough to meet people the conventional way let alone through the internet and I since I'm not very experienced at either your guess is as good as mine..

FRAN

So...

MARTY

(as he's bending over to tie  
his shoelaces)

So do I look like my picture?

FRAN

Takes out a printed picture from her  
purse and proceeds to compare it with  
him.

Ummm... I thought in your profile you said you were 6 feet tall.

MARTY

I... I did? That must have been a typo.

FRAN

And that you looked like Tom Cruise?

MARTY

Well... I mean... I have his ears.  
(showing her his profile)

FRAN

So what about me? I'm sure you agree that I at least look like my picture!

As she says this she starts to adjust her makeup.

MARTY

Takes a printed picture out from his jacket pocket and unfolds it. He then holds it up to compare it to Fran. He then turns it upside down and sideways.  
Ummm... I thought you said you were petite?

FRAN

Petite, voluptuous. Same thing really. In fact, my last boyfriend complained that I didn't eat enough. Actually, I do eat a lot but I just can't seem to gain anymore weight. I sometimes wonder if I have a disease.

MARTY

A bug?

FRAN

Ya. Like a parasite or something.

MARTY

That's pleasant. And I thought you were actually a redhead?

FRAN

Depends on what day of the week it is. Hellooooo? Today I'm a brunette. Tomorrow I might be a redhead. The next day I might be a greenie.

MARTY

(confused)

A greenie?

FRAN

Hellooo??? It's when you colour your hair green.

MARTY

You mean to say you colour your hair green?

FRAN

As if!

MARTY

Whew!

FRAN

No kidding. Green is soooooooo yesterday. White and orange are the IN colours today. But then again, you would know that since you said in your profile that you read Cosmo.

MARTY

Ummm... I think you misunderstood. I might have said that my favourite book is Cosmos by Carl Sagan.

FRAN

Who?

MARTY

Carl Sagan.

FRAN

Ohhhh... sure... of course I know who Charles Say-gan is. He works with Karl Lagerfeld. He did the Paris collection this year. Look at you. You sure know your fashion. But... what's with your getup? Are you going for a job interview or something?

MARTY

What about how you're dressed. I thought you said that you're a "natural" woman?

FRAN

You're telling me that my nails aren't the most natural shade of fuscia you've ever seen?

(shows him her nails)

And you don't exactly look like the type who manages a bar.

MARTY

No. I might have said I got called to the bar.

FRAN

Why? Did you have a huge tab or something?

MARTY

What? It means that I completed my law degree. I'm going to be a lawyer. And to be perfectly honest, you don't exactly look like a librarian to me.

FRAN

Librarian, esthetician. Who cares. They both end in e-a-n anyway. So have you met a lot of people on-line?

MARTY

Not a lot. And you?

FRAN

Not too many. You're about the 20th guy I've been out with.

MARTY

Wow.

FRAN

This month.

MARTY

Twen... twen... twenty guys?!

FRAN

Well it's not as if I slept with every one of them.

MARTY

I would hope not.

FRAN

Don't be ridiculous.

MARTY

Thank goodness for that.

FRAN

No kidding. I think only about half.

MARTY

You think??? What happened to the other half?

FRAN

Why are you so suprised? I figured that would have been a turn on for a guy to hear that.

MARTY

Sleeping with half the state of Rode Island is supposed to be a turn on?

FRAN

I never said they were any good!

MARTY

Next topic. Um... what do you do for fun

(beat)

wait.. I think you already answered that. Umm... what are some of your hobbies? Wait... same answer. Ummm..

FRAN

So you mean to tell me that of all the women you've met you've never had sex with any of them?!

MARTY

I've only met a few and-

FRAN

And you're calling me a slut because I've gotten laid more times this month than you have in your entire life?!

MARTY

First of all, I never called you a slut. But then again, I'm not the one who has golden arches installed over my bed either.

FRAN

That's a really low blow.

MARTY

You said it!

FRAN

Listen buddy, just because you've gone to law school and gotten a degree, don't throw your self-righteous crap at me.

MARTY

I'm not being self-righteous at all! I just happen to be looking for something more meaningful than "was it good for you too?". My idea of romance is a little more sophisticated than "Hi. Nice to meet you. What's your sign? Mine too? So KY or Astroglide?"

FRAN

Well at least it's better than

(holding her nose to sound nasal)

Mother. Father. This is Irene. She's a girl on my debating team. May I have your permission to copulate with her some time?

MARTY

You're totally insane!

FRAN

Which part? About the debating team?

MARTY

No. That I actually had to ask permission.

FRAN

(laughing)

MARTY

And her name was Esther!

FRAN

(laughing even harder)

I can't possibly imagine why you're still single.