

TWO CATS, NO DOGS

a short romantic comedy

by Terry Roeche

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TWO CATS, NO DOGS

At Rise: EVELYN and ROBERT are standing apart,
each with a few imaginary friends.

EVELYN and ROBERT are very much aware
of one another, but both are anxious
and shy. ROBERT and EVELYN are
drinking wine. EVELYN's glass is
nearly empty.

EVELYN

(With an effort to make conversation, rather
blandly)

... So ...

ROBERT

(With an effort to make conversation, rather
blandly)

... No ...

(ROBERT and EVELYN's dialogue with imagined
friends overlaps)

EVELYN

... I came with Joyce. You
know Joyce. We teach
together, but she had to
leave and I thought, I'm
here. I've got a little
time and I'm an art teacher
... so ... it's good to see
you. How have you been
doing?

(Pause)

No plans. I might go to my
mother's. I don't know ...
... shop. Maybe eat turkey,
if I go to my mother's, but
I don't know. Maybe just
stay around here. I've got
tons to do. What about you?
Didn't you say that you and
Elliot were going sailing or
something? That sounds like

ROBERT

... I came along with a guy
I work with, you know Anthony.
He knows the artist so ...
I like art galleries ... so
what's new? Thanksgiving's
here, long weekend.

(Pause)

You got big plans ... ?

(Pause)

Me? Watch some football ...
eat some turkey.

(Pause)

I got things to do. I don't
know, probably hang around.
What about you? Going
anywhere ... ?

(Pause)

Going to Florida. That
sounds like a lot of fun.
Florida. Disney World.

EVELYN (cont'd)

a lot of fun. Going Sailing
... Cancun? Oh. The
Bahamas. That's right the

ROBERT (cont'd)

Yeah. You just pick up the
kids and go. Just up and go.

(Pause)

Bahamas. Just up and go ... I don't really see her
(Pause) anymore. We're ...
Friends ... (Pause)
(Pause) We go out occassionally, but
I don't see him any longer. ... no, no one
But no, no one (Pause)
particular. I'm glad to So lately I've just been have some
time just for kicking around.
Myself. I've been thinking (Pause)
About taking a pottery so, sure. See you around. class ...
and you know ... I'm going to look at some
So sure ... sure. I need of the stuff here and I've
To leave too and do a few got to head out in a few
Things. Bye. See you later minutes myself ... so ...
... yeah ... enjoy sailing. I'll see you ... right.
Bye. So long.

(ROBERT/EVELYN glance around the room. They
nod to someone, smile to someone. Their
eyes find one another. At once both look
away. EVELYN moves to the red painting,
ROBERT follows. The two are absolutely
indifferent to one another)

EVELYN

Hi.

ROBERT

Hi.

(ROBERT moves close, seems to study the
painting, almost nudging EVELYN aside)

EVELYN

Go ahead ...

ROBERT

I'm sorry ... excuse me ... you were standing here first.

(ROBERT moves aside for EVELYN)

ROBERT (cont'd)

Some exhibit, huh?

ROBERT (cont'd)

(Refers to the painting)

Wow. Red.

(ROBERT reads information about the
painting)

ROBERT (cont'd)

Dancing Woman With Red Flowers.

EVELYN

I really like what he's done ... with color.

ROBERT

Knocks me over.

EVELYN

I think very vibrant ... strong colors ... I like it. It really makes a statement.

ROBERT

I like it too.

(Pause, notices her wine glass)

Would you like some more wine?

EVELYN

No thanks.

ROBERT

No hard stuff.

EVELYN

Apparently not.

ROBERT

Pretty good food. The shrimp's good. Did you try the shrimp? It's big shrimp.

EVELYN

I don't think it's shrimp.

ROBERT

What?

EVELYN

They're called prawns ... the shrimp ... they're called prawns.

ROBERT

Yeah, oh yeah, is that right? Prawns.

(Suddenly, very passionately. His thoughts)

... I've been to five gallery openings hoping you'd be there and I walk in ... and here you are. I mean ...

EVELYN

(Suddenly, very passionately. Her thoughts)

... you're the guy that's Anthony's friend ...

ROBERT

... we met at Anthony's party. You were wearing this long red dress and your hair was longer then ... the whole ...

EVELYN

... night I couldn't do anything but look at you ...

ROBERT

... you never saw me. I asked Anthony, who's the girl? He says some friend of Joyce's, art teacher ...

EVELYN

... I've been thinking, how am I going to get a chance to ever meet him again and ...

ROBERT

... my God, you're beautiful and I'm talking about prawns. I never heard of prawns.

EVELYN

(To ROBERT)

Excuse me?

ROBERT

(Awkwardly, HE stumbles to explain himself)

They look like shrimp.

EVELYN

Prawns.

ROBERT

Prawns. Yeah.

EVELYN

(Her thoughts)

... I think you are the most gorgeous man I have ever seen, probably in my whole life ... you fit ... do you understand

EVELYN (cont'd)

what I'm saying ... you fit. I think, my God, you fit.

ROBERT

(To EVELYN)

What?

EVELYN

(Awkwardly, SHE stumbles to explain herself)

Just trying to fit in, you know. I'm new in town. I'd like to become involved in the community ... I like art ... I'm an art teacher. So ... are you a painter or something ... is your work in here?

ROBERT

No. I like art ... I'm not an artist ... I like art. I'm a collector.

EVELYN

Oh. Good. I'm Evelyn Loman.

ROBERT

Hi. Robert McCanlass.

EVELYN

Hi.

ROBERT

Vibrant. Powerful. Jumps right out at you.

EVELYN

It certainly does.

ROBERT

Gutsy. Bold. Makes a statement.

EVELYN

Yes, bold, yes.

ROBERT

Defiant. There's a certain rawness.

EVELYN

Of course.

ROBERT

(His thoughts)

... I like your hair. It's the kind of hair I just want to get all into. I like how it falls about your face ... like

ROBERT (cont'd)

a couple of minutes ago you were getting some of those shrimp ... prawns ... and how you had to pull your hair over to pick 'em up ... and you looked up and saw me staring. I love ankles too, and you've got great ankles ... sexy ankles ... perfect ankles ... I loved your ankles in that long red dress at Anthony's party ...

EVELYN

(Her thoughts)

... burgundy ... I bet he liked me in my burgundy skirt ... at Anthony's he was looking at me or my feet. Why didn't I wear my burgundy skirt tonight ...?

ROBERT

(His thoughts)

... I just love a girl in a red dress ... and then that hair ... I bet it smells good.

(Tells himself, sternly)

Robert, put your hand in your pocket or you're going to touch her hair and make a fool of yourself ...

EVELYN

(Her thoughts)

... I can't think of anything to say to him ...

ROBERT

(His thoughts)

... I take you home tonight to meet my mother and we're married tomorrow. What do you think the chances of that are? She doesn't even know you exist.

EVELYN

(To ROBERT)

Excuse me?

ROBERT

(Awkwardly, HE stumbles to explain himself)

Art must exist, don't you think? You're an art teacher?