

The (F)Fence

a ten minute comedy

by James Hanson

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Cast of Characters

Kate: About 22, Roger's wife
Maddie: About 33, Daniel's wife
Daniel: About 21, Maddie's husband
Roger: About 33, Kate's husband

Scene

Backyards

Time

An afternoon

ACT I/SCENE 1

At Rise: The stage is split in two by a fence. On one side KATE is folding clothes from a laundry bag into a basket. And on the other side ROGER is lighting a grill. These things can be re-worked according to preference.

(MADDIE approaches KATE and hugs her. DANIEL approaches ROGER and shakes his hand. DANIEL and ROGER are in a frozen-like state while MADDIE and KATE are animated.)

MADDIE
Kate.

KATE
I was wondering when you were going to show up.

MADDIE
My husband had me cooking lunch for him. Meatloaf and Lasagna.

KATE
That's a big lunch. Does he make you do that everyday?

MADDIE
He says because I'm such a great cook, I should be using my talents to feed him well.

KATE
Well, I'm a terrible cook so my hubby is not so demanding. You see, that's where you erred. You should have hidden your cooking skills.

MADDIE
So what do you cook for Daniel?

KATE
Rice, and store bought patties. He prefers to eat out.

MADDIE
You know I wore that black dress I told you about.

KATE
Wow!

MADDIE
Daniel loved it. I think he fell in love with me all over again.

(MADDIE and KATE are in a frozen-like state while ROGER and DANIEL are animated.)

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

How did things go with Maddie last night?

DANIEL

She wore that black dress. It was absolutely hideous. I was so ashamed to walk next to her. I was actually walking at a distance... like I don't don't know her, she's just walking beside me.

(DANIEL and ROGER are in a frozen-like state while MADDIE and KATE are animated.)

KATE

I bet he was smiling all the time.

(MADDIE and KATE are in a frozen-like state while ROGER and DANIEL are animated.)

DANIEL

I had this frown that never left me for the whole night. I was glad it was night time.

ROGER

Kate has this dress that makes me shudder also. Something that's so 1497.

(DANIEL and ROGER are in a frozen-like state while MADDIE and KATE are animated.)

KATE

I have this dress that Roger just adores. Whenever I wear it, his eyes just lights up, and I feel like I'm ballroom dancing with him.

(MADDIE and KATE are in a frozen-like state while ROGER and DANIEL are animated.)

ROGER

I don't know how to tell her that dress is horrendous.

DANIEL

Women, huh.

(DANIEL and ROGER are in a frozen-like state while MADDIE and KATE are animated.)

MADDIE

We have such romantic husbands.

KATE

We do.

(MADDIE and KATE are in a frozen-like state while ROGER and DANIEL are animated.)

(CONTINUED)

ROGER

Are you ever pressured to be romantic?

DANIEL

The last time I went to a chic flick with Maddie, I mentally vomited all that nonsense half through the film.

(DANIEL and ROGER are in a frozen-like state while MADDIE and KATE are animated.)

MADDIE

I went to see this chic flick with Daniel, it was so touching he started crying.

(MADDIE and KATE are in a frozen-like state while ROGER and DANIEL are animated.)

DANIEL

I was crying Roger, because I was in so much PAIN.

(DANIEL and ROGER are in a frozen-like state while MADDIE and KATE are animated.)

MADDIE

He finished my whole box of Kleenex.

KATE

(showing Maddie the ring on her index
finger)

Roger bought me this ring.

MADDIE

That looks expensive.

(MADDIE and KATE are in a frozen-like state while ROGER and DANIEL are animated.)

ROGER

I had to dip into my savings because of Kate. She conned me into buying this ring for her. She said she wouldn't sleep in the same bed with me unless I bought this ring she saw in a magazine. After two days, I broke.

DANIEL

That's sad.

ROGER

Tell me about it. I literally threw the money at her.

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

Sort of like rage quitting.

(DANIEL and ROGER are in a frozen-like state while MADDIE and KATE are animated.)

MADDIE

I'm happy for you.

KATE

Thanks. Our anniversary is coming up, and I'm really excited.

MADDIE

Do you think he'll get you something?

KATE

He always has, but I'm not pressuring him or anything. He has done a lot for me already.

(MADDIE and KATE are in a frozen-like state while ROGER and DANIEL are animated.)

ROGER

Our anniversary is coming up, and I'm broke.

DANIEL

Do you have to get her something?

ROGER

If I don't, you'll never see me again, buddy. I'll get the axe.

DANIEL

I took Maddie to this crumby restaurant for our anniversary.

(DANIEL and ROGER are in a frozen-like state while MADDIE and KATE are animated.)

MADDIE

Daniel took me to a fancy restaurant for our anniversary. It was really romantic.

KATE

Tell me more.

MADDIE

We walked to the restaurant, and the stars were aligned just right, and we were holding hands.

(MADDIE and KATE are in a frozen-like state while ROGER and DANIEL are animated.)

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

On our way to the restaurant, she held my hand so tight it hurt. It was 2 o'clock in the morning, and the streets were deserted.

ROGER

Why did you choose that restaurant?

DANIEL

It is the only restaurant I know that offers great food for under twenty bucks. But it's located in the middle of nowhere. And Taxi drivers are afraid to go there, so we had to walk from the train station.

(DANIEL and ROGER are in a frozen-like state while MADDIE and KATE are animated.)

MADDIE

The food was great.

(MADDIE and KATE are in a frozen-like state while ROGER and DANIEL are animated.)

DANIEL

The food was horrible.

(DANIEL and ROGER are in a frozen-like state while MADDIE and KATE are animated.)

MADDIE

So I hope you have your own little love story for your anniversary.

(MADDIE and KATE are in a frozen-like state while ROGER and DANIEL are animated.)

DANIEL

Learn from me. Don't make that mistake.

ROGER

Kate would never forgive for something like that. Neither would her mother. They talk about everything. She shares a equal part is this relationship. Did I tell you that she's coming over to spend a week?

DANIEL

No.

ROGER

She's making her yearly inspection, so If I mess up my anniversary I'll have two women that will be angry with me.

(CONTINUED)

(DANIEL and ROGER are in a frozen-like state while MADDIE and KATE are animated.)

KATE

My mother's coming to spend a week with us.

MADDIE

I like her. She's such a nice person.

(MADDIE and KATE are in a frozen-like state while ROGER and DANIEL are animated.)

ROGER

I dread this time of year. Seeing her judgmental face makes me shudder.

(DANIEL and ROGER are in a frozen-like state while MADDIE and KATE are animated.)

KATE

Roger really likes her. His face just lights up when she enters the house.

(MADDIE and KATE are in a frozen-like state while ROGER and DANIEL are animated.)

ROGER

One week is all I'm thinking. One week...

DANIEL

In-laws, huh?

ROGER

How did you escape yours, though?

DANIEL

They live Canada, I moved to New Jersey. And if need be, I'll move to Alaska.

(DANIEL and ROGER are in a frozen-like state while MADDIE and KATE are animated.)

KATE

When are your in-laws coming over? I've never seen any of them.

MADDIE

The trip is too much for them. They live in Canada. I've suggested to Daniel that we go visit them but he says he's not up for the trip. But we will, eventually.

(CONTINUED)