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Blind Date

By Michael Anna Fambro
Characters:
LAYLA (25-40): Eccentric, enthusiastic, strong. KERRIGAN (25-40): Persnickety, rigid, romantic.
KERRIGAN and LAYLA are standing, backs turned from each other. They are each holding a blindfold. In between them is a park bench.
LAYLA You brought your blindfold?
KERR I think it's a sleeping mask.
LAYLA Can you see out of it?
KERR No.
LAYLA Then it's a blindfold. You're standing next to the rock?
KERR Yes.
LAYLA How are you feeling?
KERR Weird.
LAYLA Oh, come on.
KERR This is weird.

LAYLA People go on blind dates all the time.
KERR Blind. Not blindfolded.
LAYLA If I'm committing to something, I'm committing all the way. That's something you should probably know about me. You afraid of commitment?
KERR No. I'm afraid of stepping in dog shit.
LAYLA No risk, no reward. You in?
KERR yeah, I'm in.
LAYLA Blindfolds, on.
KERRIGAN and LAYLA both put on their blindfolds.
LAYLA Is yours on?
KERR Yeah. I can't believe I'm doing this.
LAYLA You can always tap out.
KERR How did I even get here?

KERR

LAYLA Uber?

Brian.

LAYLA

He's a man of excellent taste.
KERR Is he? I've seen him wear Crocs with a suit.
LAYLA He brought you to me, didn't he?
KERR He set me up on the weirdest date of my life, that's for sure. And I've been on my share of first dates.
LAYLA The blindfold is good and secure, right?
KERR Secured.
LAYLA No cheating.
KERR I don't cheat. That's probably something you should know about me. Have you ever cheated?
LAYLA I've cheated twice.
KERR Twice?
LAYLA Once on a boyfriend, once on my driver's test.
KERR You did?
LAYLA Cheated on my boyfriend with the driving instructor. Otherwise, I would have failed my driver's test. Needless to say, I drove here.
KERR Oh, god.
LAYLA

I'm a good driver. Better kisser.
KERR Brian really should have told me about that.
LAYLA Brian's never kissed me. You ready?
KERR For what?
LAYLA Our date.
KERR I'm not getting in a car with you.
LAYLA Of course not, I'm blindfolded. Now, I've measured out everything. Between us is a bench.
KERR Bench?
LAYLA Bench. It's exactly five steps backwards from you.
KERR What kind of steps?
LAYLA Normal, human-sized steps. Okay, on the count of three. One two
KERR I'm definitely gonna step in dog shit.
LAYLA Don't you think I looked for dog shit?
KERR What if you missed it?
LAYLA I didn't miss it.

KERR Let me take off the blindfold -
LAYLA No!
KERR And just check.
LAYLA Ooooh, trust issues.
KERR I don't have trust issues.
LAYLA Guy that can't take five steps backwards claims he doesn't have trust issues.
KERR I'm not the cheater, here.
LAYLA That was a business transaction.
KERR Just a peek. I won't look at you, I swear.
LAYLA Don't wimp out. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for a blind, blind date. Five easy steps to change your life. No dog shit.
KERR fine. Last time I trust Brian.
LAYLA Okay. Ready set

KERR

What if a dog came and shit while our blindfolds were on?

LAYLA

Fortune favors the bold - what's your name again?

KERR

Are you serious?
LAYLA Keith!
KERR Kerrigan.
LAYLA Fortune favors the bold, Kerrigan!
KERR Alright, alright.
Both take five steps backwards.
BOTH One two three four five
LAYLA I'm proud of you.
KERR Something squished.
LAYLA Nothing squished. Look at you, taking chances, rolling the dice!
KERR Craps.
LAYLA You ready?
KERR For a shower.
LAYLA To sit.
KERR What if -
LAYLA

If you say what if a dog shit on this bench, so help me God. What if what?
KERR never mind.
LAYLA Face north.
They both turn the opposite way from each other. LAYLA goes to grab his hand, and grabs his butt instead.
LAYLA Other north.
KERR turns around, so that they are both facing the audience. LAYLA grabs his hand.
LAYLA One human sized step backwards.
They take a step backwards together.
LAYLA And sit.
They sit on the bench.
KERR We made it!
LAYLA I told you, I measured out everything. Impressed?
KERR You put a lot of thought into this.
LAYLA You haven't seen the half of it.
KERR I haven't seen any of it.
LAYLA Thirsty?

KERR

I could drink something.

LAYLA

I have water, juice, wine or beer.

KERR

Where, in your pockets?

LAYLA

Under the bench. I told you, I prepared for this.

KERR

What kind of wine?

LAYLA

I opted for red. It's the sexier wine.

KERR

All wine is sexy.

LAYLA

This is a Canadian red.

KERR

Do they... make wine in Canada?

LAYLA

They sure do. Good ol' America's top hat.

KERR

And now you're going to pour red wine blindfolded?

LAYLA

And I wore white. Just to make it more of a challenge.

KERR

I wish I could watch this.

LAYLA

Alright. Corkscrew... twist... okay, I'm in.

KERR

You uncorked it?

LAYLA

That was the easy part. The pouring is the hard part. Here, hold your glass.

KERR

Wait, you're going to make me hold the glass while you pour it? What if you spill it?

LAYLA

Trust me. I practiced this a hundred times.

KERR

Trust you sight unseen, sounds smart.

LAYLA puts the glass in his hand.

LAYLA

Just hold still. Quit twitching. Gargantuan trust issues.

KERR

I don't have trust issues.

LAYLA pours it, without spilling a drop.

LAYLA

You can breathe now. Now, before you drink, just stick your finger in there so that you know where the wine is. Then you won't get it all over yourself.

LAYLA pours herself a glass as she speaks.

LAYLA

I'm glad I didn't get any of it on you. Pretty much every time I practiced that, I absolutely flooded the place.

KERR

You said I should trust you.

LAYLA

I said to trust me. I never said you *should* trust me. At least when it comes to pouring wine blindfolded. You really shouldn't believe *anyone* can do that.

KERR

Well, I guess you did it this time.

LAYLA

At least your ill-advised trust was well placed. Cheers. They attempt to clink their glasses. **KERR** This wine tastes Canadian. **LAYLA** Tastes like universal health care, and a stabilized government? **KERR** I feel like every sip is an apology. **LAYLA** So, Keith -**KERR** Kerrigan. LAYLA Kerrigan, what are you doing out with a 36 year old making you wear a blindfold on our first date? **KERR** Apparently, my friends feel that I should "get back out there." And besides, beat the can of soup waiting for me at home. LAYLA Are you and Brian close? **KERR** Depends. LAYLA On what? **KERR** If I have dog shit on my shoe. **LAYLA** What are some things you like doing? **KERR** I like making eye contact with people.

LAYLA You're a very rigid person, aren't you, Kerrigan?
KERR I've been told I'm too serious, yes.
LAYLA There's something to say for balance.
KERR What about you?
LAYLA I'm a free spirit on a schedule.
KERR I like that.
LAYLA I've been called weird, but I prefer whimsical.
KERR My life has had a severe lack of whimsy.
LAYLA You're cut out for it though. I mean, you showed up. I think you might be craving a little bit of magic.
KERR Maybe I am.
LAYLA I have a knack for timing.
KERR

And I'm very punctual.

LAYLA

KERR Twice.

Been married?

KERR What can I say? Romantic comedies are very compelling.
LAYLA Why didn't it work out? Is that tacky to ask?
KERR yes.
LAYLA Sorry.
KERR My first wife died. Car crash.
LAYLA more sorry.
KERR My second wife -
LAYLA Died?
KERR No. She left me for her dog groomer.

LAYLA

So, you like big, expensive parties.