

Dinner Date

Written by Ashley Nader

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[Three characters: Jeff, Betty, Michelle]

[Scene is set at Jeff's home, a basic table setting with two chairs, a bottle of wine and two glasses]

Jeff: I am so glad we've been able to do this.

Betty: It's nice to finally put a face to all the conversations we've had.

Jeff: I did send you a picture of myself.

Betty: You never know what someone really looks like until you see them face to face. The photos they send can be taken 10 years ago, or it's of their best side. This way I get a full 360-degree experience.

Jeff: I know what you mean, Technology has a way of bringing people closer, and yet at the same time further away from each other.

Betty: With such busy schedules, I'm surprised we've been able to do this.

Jeff: Work has been so busy on my side, late nights at the office, working over weekends, early morning coffee runs, projects and deadlines.

Betty: I'm sorry I had to cancel the last time – phoning ten minutes before our date to cancel, I'm shocked you agreed to try again. I thought I wouldn't hear from you.

Jeff: It's not like you cancelled our plans to rearrange your sock drawer. Family comes first. Speaking of which, how are your parents doing?

Betty: My mom is still rattled about what happened and my dad has a broken leg. Thankfully nothing else was broken.

Jeff: You're right, it could have been worse. I am gathering your mom is not allowed to drive anymore.

Betty: No, we take it in turns to take her to the hospital to visit my dad. He should be released in the next couple of days. She blames it on her glasses, that she had her reading glasses on instead of her driving glasses, and she swears the car was in reverse instead of forward.

Jeff: It's amazing, parents reach a certain age and then their children start looking after them and becoming the responsible ones.

Betty: You can say that again. Our family has started talking about old age homes and getting caregivers in to help with the day-to-day things.

Jeff: Would you like some more wine?

Betty: I feel weird that I'm the only one drinking while you sit there sipping on your grape juice. How long until you can start drinking again?

Jeff: The detox finishes in two weeks. I don't mind people drinking in front of me. I wouldn't have offered if I felt otherwise. *(Jeff pours himself some grape Juice.)*

Betty: When will dinner be served?

Jeff: Another 10 minutes.

Betty: I'm good for now, I'll have another glass with dinner. *(She starts to yawn.)*

Jeff: Wow, you would have swallowed me if I didn't have feet.

Betty: I beg your pardon, I have no idea where that came from.

Jeff: I hope it's not the boring company.

Betty: Not at all, it's such a nice treat to be out and have someone cook for me for a change, instead of microwave meals or a quick takeaway on the way home. Shew, I'm sorry, a wave of exhaustion has just come over me.

Jeff: I don't mind if you want to call it a night, we can reschedule for another time.

Betty: No not at all, I'm having a good evening, I'll shake off this tired spell. So, tell me is Jeff short for Jeffrey?

Jeff: Yes, I was named after my grandfather on my father's side. My friends and family call me Jeff so it's just easier to use it for everything else.

Betty: The same for me – Betty sounds more relaxed and casual than Elizabeth. I was named after my grandmother also on my Father's side.

Jeff: I'm just going to check on the dinner and make sure nothing's caught on fire. Can I bring you something, maybe some coffee?

Betty: No thanks, I'm good. A glass of water would be nice. Dinner is smelling amazing.

Jeff: I'll be back now.

Betty: Can I help with anything?

Jeff: Not at all, everything is under control, I'll be back shortly. *(Jeff goes offstage to the kitchen, Betty, closes her eyes and puts her forehead on the palm of her hand and begins to fall asleep)*

[The lights fade]

[New scene, same table, another bottle of wine with two fresh glasses]

Jeff: I don't usually do this very often, so it's nice to hear that you enjoyed the meal without getting food poisoning or coming out in a rash.

Michelle: If I knew you better, I would have licked my plate clean. That was scrumptious!

Jeff: Thank you, it was new recipe I thought I'd try out.

Michelle: I wish I could cook as well as you. I've just recently perfected beans on toast and believe me, the fire department was on speed dial.