



Sample Pages from The Date

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HORROR MOVIE 102: FAILING JUST GOT DEADLIER

A Collection of Five Hauntingly Bizarre Tales

A COMEDY IN ONE ACT BY
Steven Stack



Cast of Characters

The Ascot Ribbon (1M, 1F)

Travis: 16, and has an affinity for his looks, Bean, his mother, and his ascot ribbon.

Bea: Also 16, a somewhat normal teen except for her name (and the story behind it) and her odd affection for Travis.

Slash, Slash!!! (4F, 2M)

Nate: 17, the traditional heartthrob with nothing else to offer; dating Brooke and is Erika's brother, though he has his doubts about this.

Brooke: 18, the jock who's good at everything she does. Is dating Nate because he's quite attractive. Not one for feelings.

Marvin: 16, the studious, kind of dorky one, a fan of horror movies. Recently started dating Sasha.

Sasha: Brooke's best friend, dating Marvin, also a fan of horror movies, and clearly would be the "last girl" in horror movies because she is the least threatening and most likable.

Erika: The friend who's the least likable and most expendable of the group. Also, Nate's sister.

Pippa Vanderway: A serial killer, reminiscent of 80's Slasher films. Well, except for the fact that she's British, wears paint-splattered overalls, has pigtails, and is terrible at it.

The Cow's Head (5F, One Talking Cow's Head)

Sage: 14, Very headstrong and in denial due to her older brother's death and her parents' inability to love the one they still have. The leader of the group.

Kendra: 13, lives her life in fairy tales because her real life is clearly no fairy tale.

Landry: 14, the logical one of the friend group who tries to be the bridge between Sage and Kendra. Is also protective of Sage because she doesn't seem to want to protect herself.

Kevin: The Cow's Head, the star of a Ukrainian urban legend, oddly similar to Cinderella.

Cassie: Was the younger sister of Karen, but now is merely a vessel for a virus that is keeping her alive.

Karen: Was the older sister of Cassie, but now is merely a vessel for a virus that is keeping her alive.

The Date (2F, 2M)

Chris: 15, best friends with Ray and Felicia, who are dating. Speaking of dating, Chris has never been on a date. Until tonight.

Felicia: 16, dating Ray. Likes to research the odd happenings in St. Claire. Very loyal and direct.

Ray: 16, dating Felicia. Sees Chris as a little brother even though he's only a few months older. Seems to have it all together.

Jinny: Probably 15. A girl who is inhumanely attractive and mysterious. Started school at St. Claire three weeks ago and is very attracted to Chris, for reasons unknown.

Tofuman (2F, 2M)

Dane: 17, dating Tara, died last year and is now a Zoman, half-zombie/half-human. Tends to place lots of things in his "denial box."

Bloo-day Ma-ray: The urban legend Bloody Mary, only here she rips out hearts and sings about her love of ripping out hearts.

Tara: 17, died last year with Dane, her boyfriend, when she gave Hook Hand back her hook. Is really embracing this Zoman thing, including the eating human part.

Phillip: 18, went on a date with Tara, rather dumb, loves playing the ukulele and being found edible.

Dedicated to...

Jon Hawkins, who is one of my best friends and who once hit me in the face with a racquetball because he's terribly inaccurate on the racquetball court. Or maybe he's quite accurate. One can never be sure about such things.

The Date

Setting: CHRIS's backyard. We see a table with a slightly awkward tablecloth. There are four chairs. There's a lot of snack food and boxed fruit drinks.

At Rise: CHRIS, 15, is standing a little bit away from the table and is looking at his phone in one hand. He, at first, is reading to himself. He then turns to the table and takes a bite of his large bowl of applesauce, savors it, turns back around, and begins to talk.

CHRIS: All right, Chris. Here we go, five steps to a successful online date. One, don't be late. *(opens his eyes)* Check. Perks of having the date in your backyard. *(laughs and then closes his eyes again)* Two, look your best. *(Opens his eyes and looks into his phone. A look of disappointment crosses his face.)* With lowered expectations, that one is also a check. *(closes his eyes again)* Three, have a strong listening face while adding encouraging words to make sure your date, in this case - Jinny - knows that you are listening. *(Opens his eyes and tries a variety of "listening faces" while saying listening words. First face.)* That's very interesting. *(Makes a new face. Laughs a little.)* Are you... serious? *(makes a new face)* That's a story I would love to tell my grandmother. *(considers)* Wait, both my grandmothers are dead. I guess that could still work if I went for some sympathy. *(considers)* I'll just file that away for now. *(Makes a new face. Realizes he doesn't like that look.)* Gross. That one makes me look like I'm leering at her while smelling a fart. *(considers)* I'll just go with three. *(closes his eyes)* Step 4: Remember past dates and what went well. *(opens his eyes and ponders)* What went well on past dates? Past... dates. Um. Since there were no past dates, I'll move on to Step 5. *(closes his eyes)* Step 5: Visualize right now the perfect date happening while keeping your eyes closed. This will be fun. *(Puts the paper down and picks up his bowl of applesauce, which he will randomly take bites of during the following ridiculousness. Visualizing.)* Oh, hello... Jinny. I didn't see you there. You love my hair? Oh, thank you. I washed it today. Twice. *(smiles)* Even took a shower. With soap.

At this point, FELICIA and RAY enter from upstage unbeknownst to CHRIS. FELICIA notices first and makes sure RAY stays quiet.

I do work out a little. Thanks for noticing. What do I lift? I don't know... Weights. Boulders. The occasion horse. I don't like to talk about it because I'm pretty humble. About everything. Kind of the best at being humble.

FELICIA and RAY continue to stare on in bewildered wonder as CHRIS flexes his non-existent muscles. FELICIA and RAY turn to each other, trying not to laugh. RAY mouths, "What is going on?" FELICIA shrugs, and then their attention is drawn back to CHRIS.

Wait, enough small talk? Okay? You want to... kiss? Okay.

At this point, RAY and FELICIA can barely control themselves. They start inching closer so that they can see better. CHRIS, lost in the moment, is completely unaware that they are there.

Before we... kiss, I need to tell you something. I've never actually been kissed before. Except by my mom and my Aunt Dot, so... be gentle.

At this point, CHRIS moves in to kiss the air, rather passionately. FELICIA and RAY are chuckling quietly. At some point, sooner than later, FELICIA speaks up.

FELICIA: Chris, are we interrupting something? (*CHRIS screams and falls, spilling his applesauce on himself*) Are you okay?

RAY: More importantly, who was the better kisser? Your mom or your Aunt Dot? I'm going with Aunt Dot because I don't feel like your mom is that passionate.

CHRIS: (*struggling to get up and now has applesauce on his face*) I was rehearsing!

FELICIA: (*noticing his face*) You got a little something... all over your face.

RAY: Looks like applesauce.

CHRIS: It is applesauce. With cinnamon. I tend to stress eat cinnamon applesauce. (*tries to get it off*) Did I get it all off?

RAY: Relatively.

FELICIA: What were you rehearsing?

CHRIS: I was rehearsing the five tips for a successful date.

RAY: Oh, is that why we're here? In your backyard.

CHRIS: Yeah, you guys are a couple and my best friends, and I figured the only chance I had for this date to work out was to do research and make it a double date.

RAY: Wait, you have a date?

CHRIS: Yeah.

RAY & FELICIA: Seriously?

FELICIA: Not that we're shocked but –

CHRIS: No, you are, and I was, too. Still am. I mean, I just assumed I would never have a date.

RAY: I always thought you would. I mean, not, you know, in our teenage years. Or even in your 20s. More like when –

FELICIA: When you had a job and a lot of money. Who is she? Someone at school?

CHRIS: *(moves to the table and sits)* That's an interesting story.

FELICIA and RAY follow him to the table.

RAY: Dude, is it Elizabeth? I mean, she has had a massive crush on you since...

CHRIS: Since first grade and no, it's not her.

FELICIA: Well, who else could it be? She's the only one that's ever shown any interest in you.

CHRIS: That's a self-esteem building thought. Thanks. And it's a girl named Jinny.

RAY & FELICIA: Who?

CHRIS: You know that new girl, who started like three weeks ago, and who's really, really attractive?

FELICIA: You don't mean the inhumanely hot one that never goes to any classes and never talks to anyone, do you?

CHRIS: I do.

FELICIA: Why would she be interested in you? No offense, but she's like a perfect 10, and you, at best, are a 5.

RAY: I would go a solid 6 for you. Maybe a 6.5. Especially when you fix yourself up. But seriously, she's way out of everyone's league, so why you? Is she playing some kind of practical joke on you?

CHRIS: You know what? Maybe. But if it's not that, I have no idea why she would be interested in me.

FELICIA: When did you talk to her?

CHRIS: A couple of days ago, when I was out hiking. (*RAY and FELICIA seem shocked.*) Don't worry. By hiking, I meant taking a couple of steps into the woods and remembering that hiking is dumb. I turned around to head back to my car, and when I did, she was standing there. Looking amazing.

RAY: I bet.

CHRIS: She said, "Hi Chris, my name is Jinny and I like you. A lot."

FELICIA: She did not.

CHRIS: She did! I promise.

RAY: Did she realize she was talking to you?

CHRIS: I wasn't sure, but she did say my name, no one else was around, and she was looking directly at me. I was at a loss for words, so she kept talking about how awesome I was and how she wanted to get to know me better. Way better. We talked about going to dinner or something, but she said she doesn't really like public places that much, so she suggested hanging out in my backyard. I, also not liking public places, was like "Cool. We can absolutely hang out in my backyard." She seemed really excited, and when I was about to tell her my address, she said she already knew. Awesome, right? (*silence*) Say something.

RAY: Something's off about this.

FELICIA: Ray's right. A new girl who no one really knows comes out of nowhere, is basically perfect, and is obsessed with you? Not to mention, she wants to have your first date here in your backyard, and she somehow knows where you live? Too many things that don't add up. Something bad is going to happen.

RAY: Yep.

CHRIS: C'mon. I feel like, if you subtract everything suspicious, the main reason that neither of you can't fathom someone as attractive as Jinny liking me is that, well, it's me.

RAY: And?

FELICIA: Not to mention, if something too good to be true happens in St. Claire, it always is too good to be true and someone, usually multiple someones, dies.

CHRIS: None of us are going to die. It's just a date. The very first date of my entire life and I think she likes me. Like a lot. She even gave me a Valentine's card.

FELICIA: It's October, and we're in high school. (*silence*) What did it say?

CHRIS: It said, "Sometimes dreams come true." I looked up to thank her, but she was already walking away. Her shadow was weird, though.

RAY & FELICIA: What?

CHRIS: Like it wasn't attached to her. And it was facing the wrong way. I swear it was watching me.

RAY: A shadow, facing the wrong way, watching you? (*CHRIS nods*) Seems normal.

FELICIA: We should leave. Like now.

CHRIS: No. That would be rude. And, besides, this is my house. Look, I don't want to ruin this before it even starts. I think we might have something special.

RAY: Based on what?

CHRIS: That she's really attractive and likes me?

RAY: Make sense.

FELICIA: Fine. We'll hide in your house until she leaves, and then you text her later that you were sick or something.

CHRIS: Like I had explosive diarrhea or something?

FELICIA: What? Why would that be... just no. Say you were sick with no explanation. Then we will talk to her at school on Monday. Trust me, tonight is not going to end well, so let's –

CHRIS gets a text message.

CHRIS: Too late. She just texted me that she's here and coming to the backyard. (*silence*) Please don't mess this up for me. I'm tired of being the one without someone. Just make me look good tonight. If anything gets weird, we'll just end the date early.

FELICIA: Promise?

CHRIS nods.

RAY: We got you, Chris. Besides, it's only one date. What's the worst that could happen?

FELICIA: (*sighs and shakes her head*) And one more thing. Everything you were rehearsing, don't do it. Any of it. It was awful.

RAY: Quite awful. Like the worst. Ever.

CHRIS: (*smiles*) Okay, I won't. Guys, thanks for helping and uh, being like my only friends in the world.

RAY and FELICIA smile just as we see JINNY entering. CHRIS jumps up, trips, and almost falls.

RAY: Solid start there, bud. (*CHRIS looks at him as he gets up*) I mean, (*mock concern.*) are you okay?

CHRIS: I'm fine. (*gets up and walks over to JINNY*) Hi, Jinny.

JINNY: Hi, Chris. (*notices the backyard*) It's just like I remembered it. (*CHRIS looks confused*) I mean, it just as I thought it would look.

Awkward silence. RAY coughs, "compliment her."

CHRIS: You look beautiful. That dress is... very dress like.

JINNY smiles as RAY and FELICIA shake their heads.

JINNY: Thanks, and you look nice too. (*notices the applesauce on his face*) Is that applesauce on your face?

CHRIS: Why yes. I had an accident. I thought I got –

JINNY: (*draws her finger across the applesauce on his chin and then tastes it*) Cinnamon applesauce, my favorite.

FELICIA: Well, that's not sanitary.

JINNY looks at RAY and FELICIA then turns to CHRIS.

FELICIA: I thought it was just going to be you and me.

CHRIS: No. Sorry. This is –

JINNY: Ray and Felicia, your best friends.

CHRIS: Yeah. How did you know?

JINNY: I see you three together at school all the time.

FELICIA: (*crosses over to JINNY and CHRIS*) Hi, Jinny. Sorry that Chris didn't let you know that this was going to be a double date.

(notices a drawing of some sort on her hand) Hey, what's that thing on your wrist? It looks familiar.

JINNY looks down and notices the drawing. Then she tries to hide it.

JINNY: It's nothing. I just tend to draw on myself sometimes.

FELICIA: But it looks familiar. Like I've seen it before.

JINNY: You haven't.

CHRIS: (sees this getting awkward and changes the subject) Why don't you come over to the table, Jinny.

JINNY and CHRIS walk over and sit. They are followed closely by FELICIA, who seems to be bothered by something about JINNY. It's the drawing. CHRIS points to the snack on the table.

If you're hungry, have some snacks or something to drink. I didn't make any of them. I actually took them from my little sister's room. She keeps a stash under her bed. (smiles awkwardly)

JINNY: (smiling) You are so adorable. I'm good right now, though. (stares at RAY and FELICIA) I'm also okay with you both being here.

RAY: Awesome.

CHRIS: Yeah, I wanted to give myself the best chance of not messing this up and figured having them here would help. I haven't had much experience at, you know, dating. Or any. (realizes what he said) I didn't mean to say that last part.

JINNY: It's okay. I've always loved your honesty. (The others seemed confused. JINNY realizes this and tries to explain.) I've talked to people about you. (silence) I haven't had much experience dating either.

CHRIS, FELICIA & RAY: Really?

JINNY: Yeah.

FELICIA: Why?

JINNY: I'm not sure.

RAY: Probably cause you're too hot and guys are scared to talk to you. I know I would be.

FELICIA: (turns to him) But not scared to talk to me?

RAY: *(Seems unsure of what to say. Awkwardly.)* Yes?

FELICIA: *(shakes her head and then turns back to JINNY)* Anyway, Chris is a great guy. Like one of the best.

RAY: And he totally likes you. I mean, probably 90% for your looks but

–

JINNY: *(turns to CHRIS)* You like me, Chris? *(silence)*

CHRIS: I mean, yeah. I know I don't know you well –

JINNY: But you do. You know me better than you think.

CHRIS: *(confused)* Oh, okay. And you're pretty, and no one even mildly attractive has ever looked at me before. Except by accident.

A quick moment of sadness passes over JINNY, but we are unsure why.

JINNY: Well, you're exactly what I want, and tonight will prove that some things are just meant to be. *(awkward silence)* Just like Felicia and Ray.

FELICIA: I wouldn't go that far.

RAY: Hey.

RAY and FELICIA both laugh. Silence.

FELICIA: What grade are you in?

JINNY: 10th, like all of you.

RAY: But you're not in any of our classes and our school is small so –

JINNY: I'm on a different schedule.

RAY: *(confused but decides not to pursue it)* Oh.

FELICIA: *(chooses to pursue it)* Well, who do you hang out with? Maybe we know –

CHRIS: Can we stop all these questions?

FELICIA: *(turns to CHRIS)* Oh, would you rather use some of those lines I saw you –

CHRIS: No. No, I would not. I simply think that –

JINNY: It's okay. I hang out with a few people. Not too many at this point, and I'm not close to anyone besides one person I think you all know. Elizabeth Berring?

RAY & FELICIA: Seriously?

JINNY nods.

RAY: I didn't think she hung out with anyone. Besides Chris every now and then.

CHRIS: I wouldn't call it hanging out.

JINNY: I think she's very nice.

CHRIS: She is. We've all known her since first grade.

RAY: *(laughs)* And that's how long she's had a crush on him. *(pointing to CHRIS)*

JINNY: Really?

CHRIS: Yeah. She's given me a Valentine's Day card every year since then. And when you gave me one, it made the second person who's given me a Valentine's card who wasn't forced.

FELICIA: Better watch out, Jinny. You might have some competition for Chris.

FELICIA, RAY, and CHRIS laugh. A change comes over JINNY's face.

JINNY: Why are you laughing? Is something funny?

They stop laughing after noticing that JINNY seems offended.

CHRIS: Um... no.

FELICIA: It's just that Elizabeth is sweet and all, but...

JINNY: But not pretty enough for someone to like? Not pretty enough like say... someone like me.

FELICIA: We didn't mean anything by it.

JINNY: I know.

RAY: We all like her, but she's just kind of sad. And her obsession for Chris is... different.

JINNY: How so?

RAY: I don't know. Maybe the fact that it's been going on since first grade and nothing's ever happened. She probably should move on. For her sake.

JINNY: What do you think, Chris?

CHRIS: I don't know. I don't like her that way, so I guess. Although, I am kind of flattered by it. I mean. It's nice to be liked. Even though it's a little weird.

FELICIA: I feel like we're all coming off poorly about Elizabeth. The bottom line, Jinny, is she's our friend.

JINNY: Is she? Is she really?

RAY: Well, not close friends, but yeah.

JINNY: Uh. When was the last time you saw her?

Confusion shows on their faces.

CHRIS: I think I saw her today in class.

JINNY: You think?

CHRIS: I mean, I thought I did.

JINNY: (*pointed*) You didn't. (*to RAY and FELICIA*) When was the last time you two saw her?

FELICIA: I don't know, this week.

RAY: Yeah, definitely this week.

FELICIA: Well, I wouldn't say, definitely.

RAY: Yeah. Maybe we saw her.

JINNY: You haven't seen her either. For the last three weeks. (*Gets up and crosses away from the table. Looking off.*) Because that's how long she's been gone. But none of you would know because she's... forgettable. Simply background noise. That's all she is to you.

CHRIS: That's not true.

JINNY: You didn't even know she was gone. For three weeks.

FELICIA: What's your deal with Elizabeth? She's not even here and –

JINNY: My deal with Elizabeth is that it must hurt to be the person who disappears, and no one notices. No one.

RAY: I can't believe she's been gone for three weeks. Wow. I mean, I hadn't noticed –

CHRIS: Don't finish that sentence. *(crosses over to JINNY)* Look, Jinny, we're teenagers. And not knowing that Elizabeth was gone for that long, though clearly wrong, doesn't mean we don't care about her. It just means...

JINNY: Means what?

FELICIA: It means that we're too wrapped up in our thoughts and problems to notice things.

JINNY: You noticed me.

RAY: Yeah, but you're like...

JINNY: Everything Elizabeth's not?

RAY: Well, yeah. I mean, it's the way the world works, right?

JINNY: Yes, it is the way the world works.

CHRIS: Look, I like Elizabeth, and I feel terrible that I didn't know she wasn't at school. Do you know what happened to her?

JINNY: She's gone.

CHRIS: What?

JINNY: She's gone.

RAY: When is she coming back?

JINNY: *(smiles)* She's not. But what of it? No one missed her anyway. The world never saw her value and never would have so who cares?

CHRIS: I do.

JINNY: *(looks at him)* I almost believe you.

CHRIS: It's true.

JINNY: *(takes a moment at then smiles at him)* Good. I forgive you. *(crosses away from him)* Everything is almost perfect.

FELICIA realizes something and crosses away from the table. She is not looking at anyone.

FELICIA: Wait. You started about the same time that Elizabeth –

JINNY: Disappeared? Yes. It was the same day.

RAY: Then how were you friends with her?

JINNY smiles but doesn't answer. FELICIA stands up.

FELICIA: We have to go. Sorry, Jinny. Ray, Chris, and I have to go.

CHRIS: Why?

FELICIA: Just trust me. C'mon, Ray.

RAY stands up.

JINNY: You're not going anywhere. None of you are. You're here with me until I get what we want.

They take notice of the word "we." CHRIS backs away from JINNY.

CHRIS: What is going on?

JINNY turns to CHRIS and reaches for him, but he reflexively backs away slightly. JINNY notices this and smiles.

JINNY: Don't be afraid, Chris. You and I will get our happily ever after. *(turns to FELICIA)* Felicia, why don't you explain what's going on to the boys because I know you know.

FELICIA stays silent. RAY turns to her.

RAY: Felicia?

FELICIA: That marking on her wrist isn't some random drawing. It's a crossroads branding.

CHRIS: What?

FELICIA: A crossroads branding. It's what one gets when they make a crossroads deal with a demon. It basically marks them as property until their debt is paid.

RAY: Holy crap.

CHRIS: *(to FELICIA)* Why would you know that?

FELICIA: Think about where we live, dummy. It pays to know stuff.

JINNY: Not well enough, apparently. *(Silence. Then smiles.)* You are a smart girl. *(crosses away a little and looks off)* It is a crossroads branding. Several weeks ago, I made a little deal. Or should I say, Elizabeth made a deal with someone. *(turns back to them)* And if you three play along, you can all reap the benefits. Well, Chris does and *(turns to RAY and FELICIA)* and the two of you get to live. *(silence)*

RAY: So, you're Elizabeth?

FELICIA: Duh. So, your deal was –

JINNY: To be everything Elizabeth was not and to live one perfect year.

FELICIA: What was the cost?

JINNY: After my year is up, I go away for good.

RAY: Wow. Someone overpaid.

JINNY: When one has nothing, there is no way to overpay.

FELICIA: How does Chris fit into this?

CHRIS: Yeah, how do I fit into this?

JINNY: Because you are the one I choose to spend my perfect year with, in a constant state of bliss.

FELICIA: (*crosses over to CHRIS*) You can't do this, Chris. (*turns to JINNY*) Elizabeth, these deals never go the person's way. And yours is just stupid.

RAY: Probably don't say that –

FELICIA: No, it needs to be said! Elizabeth, one year? Even if it's perfect? You have a whole life ahead of you. And you give up –

JINNY: I gave up nothing. You talk about an entire life ahead of me. That's easy for you to say. For Ray. Even for Chris.

CHRIS: Why "even?"

JINNY: But for me? You think this life is going to be better? You have no idea how hard it is for me to get out of bed every morning. And my future? I know what I was born into and how my story turns out. I see it every day when I watch my parents. I get that it's only a year, but I value quality over quantity. And in my case, if nothing changed, quantity would lead to nothing but disappointment.

FELICIA: You can't guarantee that. No one knows how their life is going to turn out.

RAY: But, I mean, I could see how you think your life sucks. I mean, Elizabeth was... you know, average looking, not overly smart, and we didn't even notice she was gone. And when you add the family issues and –

CHRIS: Is anything you're saying right now supposed to be helping?

JINNY: It does help. Prove my point. And it doesn't matter anyway. I've already made the deal, and deals like these aren't the kind you break. (*takes CHRIS's hands*) Chris, say yes, and you will have the best year of your life. Trust me.

CHRIS: What's happens to me after –

JINNY: You'll go back to your normal life.

CHRIS: That's a little anti-climactic.

RAY: That's because she's lying. She's going to *Romeo and Juliet* this thing.

JINNY: I'm not lying.

FELICIA: Even if you're not, you can't be sure that whoever you made a deal with won't just take Chris.

JINNY: And what if they do? I'm offering Chris a year of perfection.

CHRIS: But it's only a year.

JINNY: A lot can happen in a year. (*loaded*) A lot.

CHRIS: (*seems to be considering it*) I –

RAY: (*crosses to CHRIS*) Wait, Chris, you cannot seriously be considering this.

CHRIS: I mean –

FELICIA: (*crosses to CHRIS, separating him from JINNY*) No, Chris, you're not doing this. We're your best friends. We've always been there for each other, and this is no different. You know all of this is wrong and won't go the way she's saying it will. It never does.

RAY: I agree with Felicia. We'll find you some other girl who hasn't made a deal with a demon. I mean, she'll be less attractive, way less attractive, but she'll also have less baggage. Probably.

Silence as everyone looks CHRIS, who is trying to decide what to do.

CHRIS: Yeah. You're right. (*turns to JINNY*) I can't do this. I'm sorry.

JINNY: Huh. Such a shame. I had hoped not to do this.

CHRIS: Do what?

JINNY: See, my deal was a little different. I've always loved the stories with the genie and three wishes, and I've only used one, but now I see I'm going to have to use another ones.

FELICIA: Wait. Three wishes. That's not the way crossroad deals work.

JINNY: This one did. And I had hoped that you and Ray, Felicia, would support mine and Chris's love, but now I see that you won't. So, you'll have to go away.

FELICIA: What are you –

JINNY looks at them all almost as though she is in another place. A shadow appears. RAY suddenly gets a text. He walks over to his phone, opens it, and then reads it. A hollow look comes over his face. He collapses. FELICIA rushes over to him.

Ray? Are you okay? (she crosses to him and kneels beside him) Ray? (turns to JINNY) What did you do to him?

JINNY: I gave him to something. Something beautiful.

FELICIA: Fix him. Now!

JINNY: I'm not doing that. Because I can't.

CHRIS: But you do have one wish left.

JINNY: I'm sorry. I meant I don't want to.

FELICIA: Is he –

JINNY: Dead? No, he's still in there but is being hollowed out. Soon he'll be nothing more than a shell. For something else. When the new resident takes over, it's not going to be pleasant for him. But don't worry, you're about to find out what it's like too.

FELICIA: I gathered.

JINNY: Sit down, Felicia. (*FELICIA doesn't move*) I said, sit down.

FELICIA, seemingly controlled by some other force, moves to her chair. JINNY crosses over to her smiling while CHRIS seems too stunned to move.

You know, I've always envied you. Ever since first grade. And not just because of how close you were to Chris. I envied you because of everything you had. Everything you were. I wanted to be you every single day of my life. Did you know that? I bet you

didn't. And since I couldn't be, I at least wanted to be your friend. But I didn't get that, either.

FELICIA: I was never mean to you.

JINNY: Never mean to me. How sad that that counts for friendship when it comes to someone like Elizabeth. *(she moves away slightly)* I have a question for you: if you can't be loved, is it better to be hated and scorned or simply forgotten? *(silence)* Clearly, the answer is hated and scorned because at least that means someone feels something for you. *(turns back to FELICIA)* And now, because of what I've done to Ray, I see the hate in your eyes, Felicia. Thank you. But now it's time for you to go too.

CHRIS: Please, Jinny... I mean, Elizabeth. Don't. I'll do anything if you –

JINNY: It's too late.

FELICIA receives a text message. She looks at the phone and then looks at JINNY.

FELICIA: I just won't open it.

JINNY: *(smiles mockingly)* But you will.

FELICIA stares at JINNY. She finds herself picking up her phone. CHRIS rushes to her.

CHRIS: No, Felicia!

But it is too late. She has opened the phone. A look of fear comes over her face as she turns to CHRIS. After a moment, and then she is gone. Silence. JINNY slowly crosses to FELICIA and pushes her out of her chair as CHRIS watches her in stunned silence. JINNY turns to him.

JINNY: Trust me, you didn't want her staring at us like while we talk.

JINNY picks up her chair and moves it away from the table. She gets CHRIS's chair and does the same. She sits, looks at CHRIS, and then pats the chair beside her. CHRIS doesn't move.

JINNY: Chris, don't be that way. *(He sighs and then slowly crosses over to her and sits. Silence.)* Now it's just the two of us. *(silence)* Say something, silly.

CHRIS: This is the worst first date ever.

JINNY: You're just saying that because of what happened to your friends.

CHRIS: Yep. That would be it. (*turns to her*) I thought you were a good person, Elizabeth.

JINNY: I was, but one can only be pushed to the background so many times before asking, "What about me? Why do I have to be the one always rejected?" Instead of complaining about it and doing nothing, though, I decided to fix it. And to be honest, what happened to Ray and Felicia is really your fault, Chris. Tonight was supposed to only be you and me, but you invited them, and their words reminded me of how they had always been standing in the way of our love since the beginning. In first grade.

CHRIS: Wait, what?

JINNY: That's right. You've loved me since first grade.

CHRIS: No, I didn't. I don't even think first graders can –

JINNY: No, they can. Because we did.

CHRIS: No, I –

JINNY: Yes! You did. I saw the way you looked at me then, especially after your birthday party. The one you invited me to. Which, by the way, was the only party I've ever been invited to. Your party was when I saw your backyard for the first time. That's why I wanted our first date to be here because it's been my happy place ever since. You were so kind to me that day, the day we fell in love. We've been in love ever since. You just forgot because Ray and Felicia poisoned your mind against me.

CHRIS: That's not true. Any of it. I barely remember my party. Because I was turning 7.

JINNY: That's okay because I do. When you handed me that invitation, it made me so happy. And that day turned out to be the best days of my life. Well, until today.

CHRIS: Wait, about that invitation. It wasn't even meant for you. It was meant for Lisa, but she was sick that day, and I had one extra invite, and you had just given me that really nice Valentine's card, and you saw me with the invitation in my hand so –

JINNY: Lisa? You mean the one the buck teeth?

CHRIS: Yeah. I had a huge crush on her then.

Production Notes

Sets

The Ascot Ribbon needs merely a bench. You could add delightful trees and shrubbery if so inclined.

The Cow's Head takes place in an old cabin and only needs a chair or a couch. You can make the set as elaborately “creepy cabin” as you wish. Even though a “bloodstain” is mentioned, there is no need to stain your stage with blood.

Slash, Slash takes place at abandoned campground, but the only real set piece needed is a tent. For Erika's death scene, you can have it simply take place downstage using downstage lighting, leaving the main set (featuring the tent) onstage in the dark.

The Date occurs in a backyard with a table and four chairs at night.

Tofuman takes place in a living room of a shack. There needs to be some chairs and a table for Dane to work his magic with his tofu.

Lights

Basic lighting is needed for all scenes. To create a more suspenseful atmosphere, dim lighting is recommended for almost all scenes, and a blue light would be excellent for *The Cow's Head*. There are moments that blackouts are required, and those are mentioned in the script.

Sound

The Ascot Ribbon

- Perhaps a soft meadow sound
- The sound of a head falling off

The Cow's Head

- Loud knocking at the door
- Outdoor noise

The Date

- Cellphone notifications

Tofuman

- 80's style music

Props Needed*Ascot Ribbon*

- Ascot Ribbon (Travis)

Cow's Head

- Bags (Sage, Landry, Kendra)
- Cow's Head (Kevin) Note: We used a cow's head mask stuffed to make it look full. You could also make one.
- Kit Kat bars (Landry)
- Flashlights (Sage, Landry, Kendra)

Slash, Slash

- Bedazzled Machete (Pippa)
- Backpacks (Marvin, Sasha, Erika, Nate, Brooke)
- Note (Pippa)
- Stick (Pippa)
- Sorry Pieces (Nate)
- Inhaler (Nate)

The Date

- Snack food, juice boxes (Chris)
- Bowl of cinnamon applesauce (Chris)
- Cell Phones (Chris, Ray, Felicia)

Tofuman

- Tofu in the shape of human parts (Dane)
- Ukulele (Phillip)
- Phillip's Heart (Bloo-day Ma-ray) Note: If you wished you could place the heart in a paper bag.

Costume

All characters can dress in what you imagine for them, except for Pippa Vanderway in *Slash, Slash*, who has “glasses, pigtails, freckles, and paint splattered overalls.”

Also, Travis's ascot in *Ascot Ribbon* should be quite the colorful one.

Random Vital Notes*The Falling Off of Travis's Head in The Ascot Ribbon*

We did this by blacking out the lights when Bean removed the ascot ribbon and having Travis fall behind the bench so that only his head could be seen. We covered the bench with a black sheet to aid in the illusion. When the

lights returned, bam, no body. Like magic.

The Slash, Slash Training Montage

This is based on what was quite prevalent in almost every 80's movie I saw. Think cleaning montage, or car wash montage, building montage, etc. And each montage is full of hijinks, no talking, smiles, goofiness, and, most importantly, an upbeat 80's song. In our case, the montage is training someone to be a horror movie serial killer. Even though it's already listed in the script, I've included what needs to be trained... right here:

- The menacing stare for a rather long and tedious time (Pippa does rather poorly at this).
- The slow walk that always gets them places faster than people running (Pippa also does poorly at this because she either skips, hops, or something else ridiculous).
- The powerful slashing with no flair (Pippa also does poorly at this because she does the slashing like a dancer).
- Appearing in random places like a game of whack-a-mole (Pippa thinks she does good at this but her happily popping out is kind of the opposite of what they are after).
- The using of various things to kill people.
- At one point, she wants something to drink but is denied because killers don't drink or eat
- Whatever else you can think of! Have fun!

Kevin (The Cow's Head) Voice

This one we did by using a microphone. You could also just have the person hidden onstage to provide the voice. Though the microphone added another element of weirdness.

Cassie and Karen in The Cow's Head

They should simply be in the background covered in sheets. They could also almost be offstage if that's easier.

The marking on Jinny in The Date

Have fun with this one. Not that you couldn't have fun with everything else. It needs to be big enough to be seen by the audience. Placement depends on your taste.

The Ripping Out of Phillip's Heart in Tofuman

This one clearly takes place offstage, and no heart must be ripped out.



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