

Matt & Ben

Written by Mindy Kaling

COMEDY

(Lights up)

MATT. Alright, so big break-up scene, right? Skylar's dorm. Page 76. Here we go.

BEN. Hey, you know what, let's do it on our feet.

MATT. Yeah?

BEN. Let's get the blood moving; see how it feels.

MATT. Okay. Let's say I'll play, uh, Will. You play Skylar.

BEN. Do you want English Skylar or Regular Skylar?

MATT. Uh... English is fine.

BEN. Right, right.

MATT. Okay...

(They read.)

MATT. *(Reads in the appropriate Boston accent)* "Don't tell me about my world. You're the one that's afraid. You just wanna have your little fling with the guy from the other side of town and marry some prick from Stanford that your parents will approve of. Then you'll sit around with the rest of your trust fund babies and talk about how you went slummin' too once"

BEN: *(Reads in an overdone cockney accent)* "I inherited that money when I was thirteen when my father died"

(Pause)

MATT. Less cockney I think.

BEN. Was I doing Cockney?

MATT. A little.

BEN. Oh, I'm sorry.

MATT. It's okay. *(Reading again)* "At least you have a mother."

BEN. *(Again, beginning in a cockney accent)* "Fuck you, You think I want this? That money's a burden to me. *(MATT gives BEN a look; BEN changes to a bad Italian accent.)* Every day I wake up and I wish I could give it back. *(Changes to a bad Southern accent)* I'd give everything I have back to spend one more day with my father. But that's life. *(Changes to a bad German accent)* And I deal with it. *(Resumes the original cockney accent)* So don't put that shit on me. You're the one that's afraid."

(Pause.)

MATT. That's like ... weird. That's a weird accent.

BEN. But it's English.

MATT. Yeah, no, we're just gonna drop the accent.

BEN. No, no, it's important. I'll try harder.

MATT. It's just a read through, man.

BEN. C'mon go.

MATT. "What the fuck am I afraid of?"

BEN. "You're afraid of me. You're afraid I won't love you back. And guess what? I'm afraid, too. But at least I have the balls to give it a shot. At least I'm honest with you."

(MATT pauses, gives BEN a look BEN gestures to keep the scene going.)

MATT. "I'm not honest? Is that what this is about? You wanna hear that I don't really have any brothers? That I'm a fucking orphan? Is that what you wanna hear?"

BEN. "Yes, Will."

MATT. "No, you don't wanna hear that."

BEN. "Yes, I do, Will."

MATT. "You don't want to hear that I got cigarettes put out on me when I was a little kid. That this isn't surgery. Will lifts his shirt revealing a six inch scar on his torso.. You don't wanna hear that. Don't tell me you wanna hear that shit."

BEN. "Yes I do Will."

MATT. "What you wanna come in here and save me? Is there a sign on my back? Is that what you wanna do? Do you? Don't bullshit me. Don't you fuckin' bullshit me."

BEN. *(Overlapping)* No! No there isn't! No! "You know what I want to hear? I want to hear that you don't love me. If you tell me that, then I'll leave you alone. I won't ask any questions and I won't be in your life." *(Sobbing)*

MATT. Will looks Skylar dead in the eye. Lowers his hand. "I don't love you."

MATT & BEN. Oh my god!

(They both mildly freak out)

BEN. That is a fucking good scene.

MATT. Yeah?

BEN. Yeah and you read it really well.

MATT. Thanks. That "I don't love you" at the end. Oh man.

BEN. Forget about it. It's so raw. *(Pause)* Can I give it a go?

MATT. Uh, sure.

BEN. Is that okay?

MATT. We have a lot to do Ben, so we should ... no, we can do it right now if you want. Ok. Great. Good. Here we go.

(They read)

MATT. "You're afraid of me. You're afraid I won't love you back. And guess what? I'm afraid, too. But at least I have the balls to give it a shot. At least I'm honest with you."

BEN. "I'm not honest? Is that what this is about? You wanna hear that I don't really have any brothers? That I! I am a fucking orphan? Is that what you wanna hear?"

MATT. "Yes, Will."

BEN. "No, you don't wanna hear that."

MATT. "Yes, I do, Will."

BEN. "You don't want to hear that I got cigarettes put out on me when I was a little kid. That this isn't surgery. Will lifts his shirt revealing a six inch scar on his torso. You don't wanna hear that. Don't tell me you wanna hear that shit."

MATT. "Yes I do."

BEN. "What you wanna come in here and save me? Is there a sign on my back? Is that what you wanna do? Do you? Don't bullshit me. Don't you fuckin' bullshit me."

MATT. "You know what I want to hear? I want to hear that you don't love me. If you tell me that, then I'll leave you alone. I won't ask any questions and I won't be in your life."

BEN. "I don't love you!"

(BEN throws a chair across the room.)

MATT. Ben!

BEN. What?

MATT. What is wrong with you?

BEN. What?

MATT. You don't throw a chair!

BEN. No, I think. Will is really upset.

MATT. Are you kidding me?

BEN. No. It's the first time he's talking about his childhood.

MATT. Fine, but he's not psychotic. Plus, the chair.

BEN. Forget about the chair. The scene is so fucking intense.

MATT. Why would he break a chair in Skylar's dorm room?

BEN. Because he's got a temper.

MATT. What?

BEN. Yeah, he's a fighter. He's scrappy. Like Daniel Day Lewis in ... uh ... My Left Foot.

MATT. The Boxer?

BEN. Yes, The Boxer. He's got that explosive quality. That "He's been there, He's seen the mean streets. He's got a band-aid over the bridge of his nose."

MATT. No, no, absolutely not.

BEN. Why not? It's good. Let's just try it out.

MATT. No.

BEN. What do you mean, "no"? I want to try it out, so we try it out.

MATT. No, I mean that idea is terrible. Will isn't gonna do that, because it's insane. Look, it doesn't go with the whole tone of his character. Will is a smart guy, but he's not cocky about it, He's got turmoil, but that stays beneath the surface. C'mon, he loves her, but he doesn't know how to show it. He doesn't want her to think he's whipped, you know? He doesn't even want to be in love because it makes him seem weak and if there's one thing Will Hunting doesn't wanna do, it's seem weak. He's saying "I don't love you" at the end not because he's not in love with Skylar, but because he's trying to be strong.

BEN. Okay. Well that all makes good sense, so I can just go to hell.

MATT. Ben -

BEN. No, I mean, that makes good sense, so maybe I should just go to hell.

MATT. Forget it, forget it. Why don't we read something else, like the Chuckie dialogue?

BEN. The Chuckie dialogue?

MATT. Yeah, you'd sound great on him. You know, he'd be more likely to throw the chair so let's read. This is exciting.

BEN. Fuck you, man, Chuckie isn't throwing a chair.

MATT. Why not?

BEN. It's dumbass, it sucks, it's suckass, it's sucko-

MATT. No it's not. It's perfect.

BEN. When the fuck is Chuckie gonna throw a chair? He's got, like, ten lines.

MATT. He has more lines than that.

BEN. I'm not playing Will and you're playing Chucky if that's what you're thinking.

MATT. Ben.

BEN. This is bullshit, man. These are not your decisions to make.

MATT. Well someone has to make them.

BEN. Oh and that someone is you?

MATT. Yes, Ben, it is.

BEN. Why?

MATT. Because I know what the hell I'm talking about.

BEN. Ohhhhhh that's right, Matt. You think you're so much goddamn better than everybody.

MATT. Ben, you honestly feel you could play this part?

BEN. I don't know yet.

MATT. Well I do. I can,

BEN. That is not the point, Matt. Both our names are on that script.

MATT. But that part was written for me.

BEN. By who? Gimme a fucking break, man. I appreciate this deep psychological understanding you have developed for Will fucking Hunting over the last what, like, three hours, but you are not the only person involved. This is my goddamn apartment, and that is my name on the script.

MATT. Yeah, right after mine.

BEN. Are you nuts? "It says Matt Damon AND Ben Affleck". "And," not "with Ben Affleck," not "occasionally including" Ben Affleck!

MATT. "And" my name is first on the script. That's Context clues, Ben.

BEN. Are you fucking kidding me? Okay. I can't take you. Look, here, we'll just flip a fucking coin.

MATT. What?

BEN. That's fair, right?

MATT. No.

BEN. You can call it.

MATT. Heads.

BEN. Heads it's you.

MATT. Good

(BEN flips the coin. The coin flies across the room and lands by Matt's feet. BEN cannot see the outcome; it's heads.)

BEN. Fine.

MATT. Sorry. Okay, I guess we should move forward then. I guess we should move ahead.... You wanna do two out of three?

BEN. No.

MATT. Really, you don't mind?

BEN. *(Imitating MATT)* "Really you don't mind?"

MATT. Oh, come on.

BEN. "Oh, come on."

MATT. Oh, I really sound like that.

BEN. "Oh, I really sound like that."

MATT. You're such a sore loser, Ben.

BEN. "I'm Matt Damon. I get everything I want. Hey Ben Two out of three? Two out of three? How about two out of three?"

MATT. Wow, Ben, that is a really excellent impersonation of me. You are a good actor.

BEN. "Wow, Ben, that is real"

MATT. Stop. Stop! Look man, we made a decision. I think we should try to be professional and move on.

BEN. Where?

MATT. It's almost four. So...

BEN. Okay, I just wanna say one more thing about this and this is the absolute last thing I will say about this, promise. Here it is: If that coin had come up tails, you would have made me keep flipping until it came up heads. I'm not gonna do that. But you would've. Because you're that kind of person. And I'm not that kind of person, And that's it. That's the last thing. Let's get started.

(Pause)

MATT. You know what, Ben, we just won't do it at all. *(MATT throws the script out the front door and slams it shut.)* Forget this. We're acting like kids and you're acting like an asshole.

BEN. Oh, and I'm the only one. Okay, sorry. Sorry. Sorry.

MATT. No, I'm not fighting you every step of the way. It's not fuckin worth it.

BEN. What, we're not fighting.

MATT. It's the same thing every time, okay, I think you and I, we just are never gonna get it together.

BEN. We'll work it out.

MATT. No, we won't. Not this time. I'm done.

BEN. Done with what?

MATT. With everything, okay? Look Ben, we're not in high school anymore. And we're not rich and famous. Obviously, somewhere along the line all the plans we made in the cafeteria, they didn't exactly pan out, so maybe we should just grow the hell up and we'll focus on something else.

BEN. Okay, relax, we'll just work on Catcher for a while.

MATT. I gotta go man.

BEN. Where?

MATT. It's almost four. So?

(MATT gets ready to leave.)

BEN. Ok, when are you gonna be back?

MATT. Listen- *(MATT hangs his head. There is an awkward silence. A knock is heard at the door.)* Did you hear that?

BEN. Uh...

(Pause)

(More knocking)

MATT. That. Here that?

BEN. Yeah, I heard that. *(More knocking)* Did you order food or something?

MATT. No. Can you come sit over here next to me?

BEN. No.

(Knocking)

MATT. Go get it.

BEN. We're working right now.

MATT. It could be Casey.

BEN. You hate Casey.

MATT. No I don't, man. Open the door. *(Knocking)* Just go check

(BEN goes to the door, exits. He re-enters, perplexed.)

BEN. It's the script.