

Ten-Minute One-Acts

The Poker Game

Cast: Brandon, David, Shane, Adam

Setting: A poker game at David's house

Props: Tray with assorted food and drinks,
poker chips and deck of cards

1 BRANDON: David, you got anything to drink?
2 DAVID: Yeah ...
3 SHANE: Food?
4 DAVID: Yeah ... gimme a second ...
5 ADAM: You knew we were coming here, why isn't the food
6 ready?
7 BRANDON: What's poker without food?
8 DAVID: *(Entering with tray of food and drinks)* It would be
9 poker at your house, loser.
10 BRANDON: I resent that!
11 ADAM: No, you resemble that ...
12 SHANE: You never have food at your house.
13 BRANDON: I can't help it. And, Shane, you never even have
14 the game at your house.
15 SHANE: My parents don't approve of gambling under their
16 roof.
17 DAVID: But it's OK under someone else's roof?
18 SHANE: Go figure. Adam, toss me one of those Cokes.
19 ADAM: Diet or regular?
20 SHANE: Look at me, buddy. Note the toned arms and flat
21 abs. The diet. Regular!! Please, you insult me.
22 DAVID: So, Brandon, deal.
23 BRANDON: Ante up, my friends. Texas Hold 'em, nothing
24 wild except us! *(He deals and the game continues*

1 *throughout the rest of the scene unless someone folds*
2 *and moves away from the table.)*
3 ADAM: Yeah, we're a wild group. Friday night, poker with
4 the boys, sandwiches prepared by David's mom, who is
5 in the other room and sodas. Whoooooooo, watch out
6 for us!
7 SHANE: Where's Natasha tonight, Adam?
8 ADAM: Church.
9 DAVID: Repenting for the sins of going out with you?
10 ADAM: She's a good girl.
11 BRANDON: So, why's she going out with you?
12 ADAM: I'm a catch, buddy! I got it all.
13 DAVID: They have medication for that now.
14 ADAM: You're a riot, David. Maybe that's why you don't
15 have a girlfriend.
16 DAVID: Don't want one. *(Referring to his hand)* I'm all in.
17 SHANE: I got nothing. *(Tosses his cards in, moves away from*
18 *table.)*
19 ADAM: Why don't you want one? *(To his hand)* I'll call.
20 BRANDON: I got nothing. *(Flips cards to continue game.)*
21 DAVID: I'm too busy.
22 SHANE: With what?
23 DAVID: School, ASB, baseball, ya know.
24 BRANDON: And you can't fit a woman in all that?
25 DAVID: Could, but don't want to.
26 BRANDON: This is the river card.
27 ADAM: Gimme what I need, baby.
28 DAVID: *(The card is flipped.)* And there it is! *(He scoops up*
29 *the pot.)*
30 SHANE: What's he got?
31 ADAM: He gets a two on the river. Oh my God! I have a pair
32 of aces and this guy wins with two in the hold and a flip
33 of a three.
34 SHANE: You are so freakin' lucky.
35 DAVID: Skill my friend, skill.

1 BRANDON: Everyone in?
 2 ALL: Yeah, sure, I got some money left. *(Etc.)*
 3 BRANDON: Ante up, losers. *(He deals, the game continues.)*
 4 OK, I know why I don't have a girlfriend. I can be kind
 5 of a jerk.
 6 ALL: *(Filled with sarcasm)* No, not really. Come on. You?
 7 Never!
 8 BRANDON: It's been known to happen. And Shane here, he
 9 has plenty of women.
 10 SHANE: This is true. Women love me. It's a burden I bear.
 11 ADAM: I have a girlfriend.
 12 SHANE: Which is proof that there is a merciful God who
 13 takes pity on the scum ...
 14 ADAM: Say what you will, Natasha will be calling me when
 15 she's done with her church thing and then tomorrow
 16 we go out.
 17 DAVID: And that's the answer.
 18 ADAM: What?
 19 DAVID: Your life is planned. She calls after church, you go
 20 out on Saturday, blah blah blah.
 21 SHANE: I don't do that.
 22 DAVID: No, you're even worse. You go out with a bunch of
 23 different girls, and you have to either lie to them or tell
 24 them the truth, then they get all hurt. Too much
 25 trouble.
 26 BRANDON: I'd like that kind of trouble.
 27 DAVID: And you, Brandon, you're the worst. Flip the next
 28 card, buddy.
 29 BRANDON: Sorry. Who's in?
 30 SHANE: Check.
 31 ADAM: Raise three.
 32 BRANDON: Too rich for me *(He starts to fold, then*
 33 *reconsiders.)* Ah, go for it. Why am I the worst?
 34 DAVID: Call. 'Cause you want a girl so bad you make a fool
 35 of yourself in front of them. It's embarrassing.

1 SHANE: True that.
 2 ADAM: Yeah.
 3 BRANDON: *(Shrugging)* Yeah, well, waddahya gonna do?
 4 DAVID: So, I do the smartest thing.
 5 ADAM: Which is?
 6 DAVID: Let the ladies come to me. Last card, please.
 7 SHANE: Man! Now he flips a queen.
 8 ADAM: Nothing!
 9 DAVID: Straight. *(He tosses BRANDON a chip.)* A little
 10 something for the dealer.
 11 SHANE: The ladies come to me.
 12 DAVID: They come to you, Shane, because they think they
 13 might end up in a "relationship."
 14 SHANE: They might.
 15 BRANDON: Right. You couldn't stay with one girl longer
 16 than a month if your life depended on it.
 17 SHANE: Yes, I could.
 18 ADAM: When? When have you ever been with one girl
 19 longer than it took between haircuts?
 20 SHANE: Whatever.
 21 ADAM: While I, on the other hand, have the security of a
 22 woman who loves me and cares about me ...
 23 DAVID: And plans every minute of your life.
 24 ADAM: She does not.
 25 DAVID: You going to that dance next month?
 26 ADAM: Of course.
 27 DAVID: *(Mimicking him)* Of course. *(Normal voice)* I'm in.
 28 BRANDON: Me, too.
 29 SHANE: Raise five.
 30 ADAM: Five? You never raise more than two.
 31 SHANE: *(He smiles.)* You in or out?
 32 ADAM: Out.
 33 DAVID and BRANDON: Call. *(The game continues.)*
 34 ADAM: So, I'm going to the dance, so what? Of course I'd be
 35 going.

1 DAVID: Shane, you?
 2 SHANE: Yeah. Don't know with who yet, though. Shirley or
 3 Jen.
 4 DAVID: Have you told either one yet?
 5 SHANE: Nah. The dance is three weeks away. No rush.
 6 DAVID: So, they're both waiting on you? Both have probably
 7 already turned down other guys hoping you'll ask
 8 them.
 9 BRANDON: Is that why Kate turned me down? She's
 10 waiting for Shane to ask her?
 11 ADAM: Yeah, Brandon. You tell yourself that.
 12 DAVID: You know something? I've gone to every dance
 13 since my sophomore year. Every one.
 14 ADAM: Big deal. So have I.
 15 DAVID: With Natasha.
 16 SHANE: Well, I've gone, too.
 17 DAVID: With drama around every one. (*Mimicking*
 18 *distraught girls*) Oh, Shane said he'd take me. No me. No
 19 me! Shane!!! What's going on? Boo hoo hoo.
 20 ADAM: Remember when Britney and Paige got into that
 21 fight in the quad and then you turned around and
 22 asked Debbie?
 23 SHANE: They both got suspended and couldn't go to the
 24 dance anyway. Saved me some trouble. I wanted to ask
 25 Debbie in the first place.
 26 BRANDON: Why didn't you just tell them?
 27 SHANE: That would have hurt their feelings.
 28 DAVID: And getting in a fight and getting suspended was
 29 better?
 30 SHANE: At least I didn't look bad.
 31 DAVID: You're a sensitive guy, Shane. A real role model.
 32 BRANDON: I've gone to dances.
 33 DAVID: To every dance? Since your sophomore year?
 34 BRANDON: Well, this year. I'm a late bloomer.
 35 SHANE: OK, you live in that world, Brandon.

1 DAVID: My point being, (*He looks at the cards and smiles.*) I
 2 win again.
 3 ADAM, SHANE and BRANDON: I don't believe this! You are
 4 so lucky. I hate this game.
 5 ADAM: So, what's your point?
 6 DAVID: I've never asked a girl to a dance. They always ask
 7 me. I'm a nice guy, people like me, I get along with
 8 everyone and the girls know that we will be going "as
 9 friends." Which, may I add, is financially wise as well.
 10 The girl asks, she pays half. It's all good.
 11 SHANE: The girl pays? I'm liking that.
 12 ADAM: I always have to pay.
 13 DAVID: That's because you're a couple. Deadly. And costly.
 14 BRANDON: OK, but why don't the girls ask me?
 15 DAVID: Because you reek of desperation. It hangs on you
 16 like the stench from a freshly fertilized field.
 17 ADAM: Nice alliteration.
 18 DAVID: You liking that?
 19 ADAM: Very nice.
 20 DAVID: "A" in English last semester.
 21 BRANDON: Hello! You were saying.
 22 DAVID: Women are very much like poker.
 23 BRANDON: I'm listening.
 24 SHANE: Maybe you should be taking notes.
 25 BRANDON: Shut up, Shane.
 26 SHANE: Merely a suggestion.
 27 ADAM: I'd take notes if I were you.
 28 DAVID: OK. It's this way. The reason why you never win at
 29 poker and you never win with the ladies is because you
 30 are always chasing them.
 31 BRANDON: Women want to be chased.
 32 SHANE: Chased, maybe. Stalked? Whole different thing.
 33 DAVID: Seriously. No matter what cards you are holding,
 34 you stay in the game. Even if there's no chance of you
 35 winning the hand.

1 **ADAM:** That is so the way you are, Brandon! You never win
 2 at poker and you never win with women.
 3 **DAVID:** You gotta know when to hold them and know when
 4 to fold them. *(He throws more chips on the table.*
 5 *Brandon matches his bet, the rest fold.)*
 6 **SHANE:** Yeah! Like asking Kate to the dance. So out of your
 7 league. But then there's Mindy. She'd be all over going
 8 with you.
 9 **BRANDON:** But she's not hot.
 10 **DAVID:** Yeah, she is. OK, maybe she's not Kate hot, but she's
 11 cute. And really nice. *(The river card is turned.)* She's not
 12 a royal flush, but she's a winning hand. Very much like
 13 this pair of tens with the ace high. Sorry guys. *(He*
 14 *smiles happily and cleans up another pot while the guys*
 15 *react loudly and with annoyance.)*
 16 **BRANDON:** I had tens!
 17 **DAVID:** But no ace high. That's a real shame, buddy. And
 18 that's what I mean. You go after something you have no
 19 way of getting.
 20 **BRANDON:** But we both had tens. Both of us!
 21 **DAVID:** But did you have the ace? No, my young friend, you
 22 did not. And that's where we differ. Mindy is your ace,
 23 and you're folding.
 24 **SHANE:** Very good analogy, David.
 25 **ADAM:** You deserved that "A," for sure.
 26 **BRANDON:** So I should ask Mindy.
 27 **DAVID:** If you want to go to the dance.
 28 **BRANDON:** *(Getting up)* I'm out. Adam, you deal this one.
 29 I'm calling Mindy and locking this in now.
 30 **SHANE:** Excellent move, Brandon, excellent. *(BRANDON*
 31 *exits.)*
 32 **ADAM:** You set him up, didn't you? She's going to turn him
 33 down.
 34 **DAVID:** That would be funny, wouldn't it? But, no. However,
 35 I did ask her if she'd go with him. She said she would.

1 She already has her dress, so what the heck, right?
 2 **SHANE:** So, we're all going to the dance?
 3 **ADAM:** Like I have a choice.
 4 **DAVID:** Who are you taking?
 5 **SHANE:** I don't know, but I know I'm going. I'll figure it out
 6 later.
 7 **ADAM:** David, what about you?
 8 **DAVID:** Yeah, probably. Leanne said that Jessica was going
 9 to ask me, so whatever.
 10 **BRANDON:** *(Entering)* I have a date! She said yes.
 11 **DAVID:** Excellent work.
 12 **ADAM:** I'm proud of you, man!
 13 **SHANE:** Now deal.
 14 **BRANDON:** OK, I can feel my luck turning. Ante up and
 15 prepare to lose all your money. *(He deals quickly.)*
 16 **DAVID:** *(Looking at cards)* I fold.
 17 **ADAM:** *(Looking at cards)* Me, too.
 18 **SHANE:** *(Looking at cards)* I'm out.
 19 **BRANDON:** I won! Did you see that? I won! *(The others shake*
 20 *their heads and shrug their shoulders at his joy.)* Hey, I'll
 21 take what I can get. *(He smiles and gathers his chips.)*