

THE VEGAN DATE

By

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EXT. RESTAURANT

Dustin(20s, good looking, wearing a light colored shirt, jeans and a black jacket), adjusts the sleeves of his jacket just before entering into the restaurant. He looks a bit nervous but squares his shoulders and opens the door to the restaurant.

INT. RESTAURANT

He enters and looks around in search of someone. At the far end of the restaurant, he spots a girl in a black dress sitting at a table.

He makes his way to the table, a bit nervous. the girl looks around, sees Dustin approach and gets up to meet him.

Dustin reaches Emma and shakes her hand and gives her a light hug. He motions towards the chair for her to sit back down and takes a eat himself.

Dustin takes a sip of water and smiles at Emma. Both start to speak at the same time, stop and laugh.

DUSTIN

Well, that took the edge off.

EMMA

(laughing)

Yeah, it did.

DUSTIN

So...this is my first time at this restaurant actually. Thanks for recommending it, by the way.

EMMA

No problem. I love trying new places to eat.

Both pick up the menu and browse the dishes that are being served.

DUSTIN

So, I looked up the best dishes at this place and the pot roast got the most reviews so I think we can try that. What would you like?

Emma looks at Dustin with an awkward expression.

(CONTINUED)

EMMA  
Um...did you forget?

DUSTIN  
Forget what?

EMMA  
That I'm a vegetarian?

DUSTIN  
(stunned)  
What now?

EMMA  
I told you on the chat, remember?

Dustin tries to remember the chat where he possibly overlooked such an important information and realizes he was too excited after Emma said yes to the date to remember much of the conversation.

DUSTIN  
(weakly)  
Um...Yeah. Sorry about that.

EMMA  
It's just that, I can't really stand the sight or smell of non vegetarian food. How about you try something different today? Maybe some kale?

DUSTIN  
(muttering to himself after a pause)  
That's like asking the lion to become a lamb.

EMMA  
Beg your pardon?

DUSTIN  
Oh nothing, just thinking of what to order.

EMMA  
(excited)  
Well, there are a lot of great dishes. you can try the chickpea falafal.

DUSTIN

Doesn't that somehow involve  
chicken?

EMMA

(stunned)

Umm...no...it's like...its  
ummm...never mind.

Dustin realizes he made a stupid remark.

EMMA

How about the....Carrot stew? I've  
heard it's great.

DUSTIN

You know, that reminds me about  
this thing I read on the internet  
about carrots.

EMMA

(confused)

What was it?

DUSTIN

It said something like if you eat  
too many you could turn orange?

EMMA

EXCUSE ME?

DUSTIN

Forget I said that. I'll try the  
Kale salad with those chickpea  
things.

Both finally decide on their dishes and place their orders. Both sit silently, Emma feels bad for forcing Dustin to eat vegetarian food and Dustin is horrified he said such stupid things.

Their orders arrive and both put the napkins in their lap and start eating.

Dustin takes a bite of his salad and is not at all impressed with the flavors. In fact, he looks as if he's about to throw up. He grabs the glass of water and takes a sip of to wash it down.

EMMA

So, how is your salad?

(CONTINUED)

Dustin's mouth is full of chewed kale and water, so he gives a huge smile and a thumbs up to Emma showing he really liked it, which was the exact opposite of what he was truly feeling.

The date drags on and Dustin keeps taking bites of his salad and small sips of water now and then.

Finally, Emma finishes her food and Dustin gives a sigh of relief as he can finally stop eating as well.

EMMA

Are you done?

DUSTIN

(too loudly without thinking)

Yes, thank god.

EMMA

What do you mean?

DUSTIN

Oh..ummm..nothing..

EMMA

You didn't like it, did you?

DUSTIN

No...no...I did...really.

Emma gets up from the table and goes to the reception to pay her bill and leave. Dustin scrambles from the table, hurriedly pays the bill, grabs something from one of the waiters and rushes to catch Emma.

DUSTIN

Hey, wait up.

Emma stops and turns around.

EMMA

You should have just said you  
didn't like it.

DUSTIN

I'm sorry.

Dustin has something in his hand behind his back and now shows it to Emma so she can forgive him. He shows her a bunch of lettuce in his hand.

CONTINUED:

5.

DUSTIN  
Forgive me?

EMMA  
Lettuce? Seriously?

DUSTIN  
Sorry, I didn't have any flowers.

Both end up laughing and Emma takes the lettuce from Dustin's hand.

SCENE ENDS

THE END