

DATE NIGHT

By: Ashlyn Zunker

Characters

Roy: Newly out-of-the-closet gay man in his early 30's

Matt: Openly gay ripped gym instructor in his early 30's

Jack: Building maintenance in his early 30's

Scene

A crowded mall and a small apartment in Washington

Time

Present Time

Scene 1

While standing in a crowded mall Roy stares down at his watch. We hear the slight sound of ticking from his watch as he counts. He is dressed in a full suit and holding a cup from the food court. He peeks around the corner and looks into the mall's gym class. Roy restates what a man inside the gym is doing.

Roy: Last round of burpees. 8, 9, 10. Ugh, beautiful. All right say goodbye, grab your bag and-

He quickly removes the lid from the cup and places it loosely onto it. He then returns to watching his watch. The ticking continues as he counts.

Roy: 3, 2, 1, now!

He rounds the corner in perfect timing colliding straight into Matt and spilling the drink all over him. Matt, the openly gay gym instructor is wearing a workout tank top showing off all his muscles, and carrying a gym bag.

Matt: Oh shit!

Roy: Oh my gosh. I am so sorry. I wasn't looking where I was going. That is completely my fault!

Matt: It's okay this shirt was all gross anyway

He proceeds to remove his shirt
revealing his sweaty yet built
chest, Roy tries to contain
himself.

Roy: No really that's my fault, why um, why don't I take it?

Matt: I'm sorry?

Roy: Your uh shirt I mean, take your shirt off no not off, I
mean it is off but I could take it home to um wash I could wash
it for you and bring it back or you could pick it up.

Matt watches Roy flustered in
intrigued silence

Roy: I mean this is my fault and all, really it's th-the least I
could do.

Matt: I do have like 37 extra workout tops so it really isn't a
big deal...

Roy: oh right yes of course-

Matt: But! I will take you up on your offer. Perhaps I could
pick it up from your place? Say tomorrow night? Over dinner? (He
winks)

Roy: I'LL COOK (he says way too loud)

Matt: I can't wait

They exchange information briefly
and Matt walks away cool and
confident leaving Roy on stage
stunned and excited.

Scene two:

We open in Roys's apartment in Washington it is tastefully decorated with dinner cooking on the stove and light jazz music playing. Roy is standing over the bathroom sink shaving. Suddenly there is a knock on the door causing Roy to jump and cut his cheek

Roy: Shit fuck damn oh my god fuck, (calling out) um just a minute!

He rummages around his bathroom looking for a bandaid

Roy: Fuck oh no no no

Matt: (Calling from behind the door) Everything ok?

Roy: (panicking) Yes perfectly fine I'll be right there!

Matt: Alright, I hope you're not trying to hide your partner in there!

Roy lets out a pained laugh as he continues to dig unsuccessfully, eventually he gives up and sticks a torn piece of toilet paper on the cut. He stares at himself in the mirror in horror.

Roy: I can't do this. Oh god, what was I thinking? what am I doing?

Matt: Roy? You ok?

Roy: Oh god. Oh god. (calling back) Yes coming!

Roy makes his way to the door
straightening himself out and
trying to remind as calm as
possible. He takes a deep breath
and opens the door.

Roy: So sorry about that, just a little um slip of the hand ya
know (he laughs awkwardly)

Matt: Aw you poor sweet thing.

Matt steps closer to Roy raising a
hand to examine his cheek, they
stand very close in silence for a
moment.

Matt: Um is something burning?

Roy: What?

He looks over to the stove where
he sees two pots have now boiled
over and begun to spill
everywhere. In all the hustle of
getting to the door, he hadn't
even noticed. The water began to
spray everywhere hitting the
counters and the power outlets
creating a spark.

Roy: (defeated) shit.

Blackout. Music stops.

Scene three:

Two flashlights flicker on from the living room as the men inspect their surroundings, they cough and try to wave the smoke away. Roy makes his way over to the breaker box on the wall and Matt follows behind him

Roy: Oh gosh. I'm so sorry I don't even know how this happened. I'm well I'm usually not this um-

Matt: Nervous?

Roy spins around the see that Matt has practically backed him into a corner and is advancing steadily.

Roy: well I um I well-

Matt: Are you?

Roy: Am I?

Matt: Nervous?

Matt is almost about to go in for a kiss and Roy begins to panic

Roy: yes. YES! (they freeze) I am nervous! Because- because I am a-afraid.

Matt: (Backing up slightly) afraid?

Roy: That's right I'm afraid.

Matt: Of what?

Roy: (panicking) Of well of the um THE DARK!

(pause)

Matt: The dark?

Roy: uhh yes th-the dark, it just happened so fast and I've never been in the um dark before so I- I'm a bit nervous, no uh afraid... of the dark!

Matt: (Laughing) well you don't say!

Matt backs away and goes to sit on the edge of the couch. Roy remains tentatively at the wall.

Matt: So you've never been in "the dark?"

Roy: Well no.

Matt: That's alright ya know. Everyone has to start somewhere and "the dark" can be a scary place to be, but with the right person... with the right person it can be the most amazing place in the world.

Intrigued Roy goes to sit on the couch with him

Roy: Really?

Matt: Oh yea! It's like finding peace and love and comfort all in the same place. And when you find that, you hold on to it with everything you have. Because it is the most important thing you will ever possess.

Roy: That's all I really want

They lean in to kiss as we see their dimly lit silhouette from the flashlights it starts sweet but begins to grow and grow when suddenly there's a knock on the door. They break apart startled.

Roy: Hello??

Jack: (calling) President of building maintenance here to fix your breaker!

Matt: Oh fuck.

Roy: What is it?

Matt: I uh think I just saw a um ghost!

Roy: A ghost?

Matt: Yes the ghost of Neil Patrick Harris!

Roy: (Excited gasp) Where?!

Matt: Going into the bathroom! I will follow him and um check it out, (keys rattle in the door) I'll be right back!

He sprints into the bathroom just as Jack enters the room holding a bigger flashlight blinding Roy.

Roy: Oh holy shit.

Jack: Sorry about that I can't always control this big thing.

Roy: (awkward chuckle) um yeah, the box is over here.

They make their way over to the box and with a few quick switches, the lights come fluttering back on. Revealing Roy to look like a disheveled mess.

Jack: Oh my! Looks like someone has been having fun.

Roy: What? Oh shit oh ha yea (tucking his shirt back in and straightening his tie he responds a little cocky) I've got a um a date over.

Jack: hmm you don't say?

Jack steps forward pulling Roy in by his tie

Jack: Got room for a third?

Roy: (stutters confused)

Just then Matt comes busting out of the bathroom.

Matt: EXCUSE ME?!?

Jack: FUCK!!

Jack jumps and backs away from Roy as he sees Matt now standing in the living room.

Jack: Honey! Oh, no honey no it's not what it looks like.

Matt: Oh really? This isn't what it looks like? Well then I'm sorry, my bad I must have just imagined the entire thing, ugh sorry about that you- you little cheating slut!

Roy: Um-

Jack: (Dramatic gay gasp) Cheating slut?? I'm sorry and what exactly were YOU doing here in this man's apartment then?

Roy: well-

Matt: Ugh well obviously we were... cooking! Cooking really hard!

Jack: Cooking?!

Roy: I-

Matt: Yes cooking!

Jack: Oh please, you've never burned a thing in your life. I KNOW you were not cooking this shit!

He points over to the boiled-over
mess on the stove

Roy: hey!

Matt: (sweetly) aww that's actually so sweet of you to notice, you're right I never burn. And I know how to season things correctly, unliked ya know (points to Roy)

Roy: But we were just-

Jack: Honey of course I notice your cooking!

Matt: Really?

Jack: Of course! Now, why don't we get home and you can cook us up a Bucatini al Limone and I'll draw us a bath? Ok?

Matt: Okie (they kiss)

Together they walk out of the
apartment leaving Roy alone in the

room, disheveled, confused, and
stuttering

Roy: Huh?!?

The End