

Do Not Pass Go
By Eric Eidson

MEL, Best friends with Bethany. In a long-distance relationship with Austin. Eager for Bethany and Austin to hang out with each other.

AUSTIN, In a long-distance relationship with Mel. Excited for his date night with Mel.

BETHANY, Best friends with Mel. Excited for her game night with Mel... and Austin.

AUSTIN and MEL begin a video call. Unbeknownst to Austin, BETHANY is also on the call with her screen off.

Austin
 Damn girl, you looking fine!

Mel
 Says you. Are you wearing that shirt I got you?

Austin
 You know it. Though I hope I won't be wearing it very long. If you know what I mean...

Mel
 Yeah, about that...

Austin
 What?

Mel
 I don't think we'll be able to do... that... tonight.

Austin
 Are you canceling Sexy Saturday? Yesterday you said we were going to...

Mel
 Before you say anything else, I have a surprise for you.

Austin
 Mmm, what kind of surprise?

Bethany turns on her camera.

Bethany
 Surprise!

Austin
Bethany... what a great surprise.

Bethany
Got you! See, Mel. I told you he would be surprised.

Mel
I knew he would be.

Austin
I certainly am.

Bethany
You should have seen your face! You were like, "Whoa, I'm so surprised."

Austin
That sounds like me. What are you doing? Here? On our date night?

Mel
We were catching up earlier, and we didn't want to hang up right away.

Bethany
So I suggested a game night with all three of us!

Austin
Oh nice, that sounds way better than what we had planned.

Bethany
Right? Who doesn't love games?

Mel
Bethany has like every game imaginable.

Austin
You don't say.

Bethany
My parents were avid gamers, so it's in my blood.

Mel
We used to always play games at Bethany's house growing up.

Bethany
So I told Mel, I said, it seems like you and Austin are getting pretty serious, but I can't give him my blessing until I know he's a true gamer.

Austin
Uh-oh. No pressure, right?

Mel
After you told me you love playing games, Bethany has been dying to play with you.

Austin
It's been a while since I've played anything, so I might need to shake some rust off.

Bethany
Hopefully that won't take too long, because we play for money.

Austin
Money? How much money are we talking?

Bethany
Gotcha again! We don't play for money. Did you see his face?

Mel
Priceless.

Bethany
You're too easy.

Austin
You got me.

Bethany
But you are playing for my approval...

Austin
I'm not falling for your jokes again.

Bethany
I'm very serious this time.

Mel
You can pick any game you want.

Austin
Yeah, yeah... cool. Maybe just a quick one. Mel and I were going to have a little date night tonight, so if you have anything that won't take too long.

Bethany
A quick game? I haven't played it in a while, but I guess we could go with a classic and just play Monopoly?

Mel

Oooh, that would be awesome. I call being the dog!

Austin

Monopoly? Isn't that a notoriously long game?

Bethany

Not compared to some of my other games. I bet we could be done in three hours.

Austin

Three hours?

Mel

Probably, there's only three of us.

Austin

How are we even going to play?

Bethany

Don't worry, I log in on my phone and show the board on my phone. That way we can all see each other and the board.

Austin

Wow... you thought of it all.

Bethany

I'll be right back. I have to grab the game from my game room.

Austin

You have a game room?

Bethany exits the room and is no longer seen on camera.

Mel

Isn't this great? I've been wanting the three of us to hang out for a while now.

Austin

Yeah, should be nice. So I guess this means we won't be having our date night tonight?

Mel

Sure we are, it'll be a game night date night.

Austin

How is it a date night when Bethany is here too?

Mel

People go on dates with groups of friends all the time.

Austin

Yeah, people who aren't in long distance relationships.

Mel

I don't live in the same city as Bethany either. We haven't seen each other in a while, and I wanted you both to spend more time together.

Austin

I get that, and I want to spend time with her too. I know she's important to you...

Mel

But?

Austin

But it's Sexy Saturday!

Mel

I didn't plan for this to happen. It was a spontaneous idea. I thought you would be excited to hang out with my best friend.

Austin

I would... on any other night, but I was expecting one thing and I got... Bethany.

Mel

What do you mean? Why did you say her name like that, "Bethany?" Why did you say it like that?

Austin

It's nothing.

Mel

It's clearly something.

Austin

Look, Mel, can we just talk about this later? She'll be back any second.

Mel

She's my best friend, I can tell her anything. I don't care what she hears.

Austin

I just think she's a little obnoxious sometimes.

Mel
Obnoxious?

Austin
Yeah sometimes. She can be a little over the top.

Mel
She's trying to make you feel welcomed.

Austin
Well she makes me feel uncomfortable.

Mel
Wow...

Bethany reappears.

Bethany
Okay, sorry I took so long. I have five different editions of Monopoly, so I couldn't decide. Which one do you guys want to play? I have Classic Monopoly, Disney Monopoly, Game of Thrones Monopoly, Star Wars Monopoly, and Rick and Morty Monopoly.

Mel and Austin are silent.

Bethany
Are you guys okay?

Austin
Yeah, we'll be okay. We just got into a little disagreement, but we're good. The Star Wars Monopoly sounds fun to me.

Bethany
Mel? You okay?

Mel
No. Austin just said you were obnoxious, and it put me in a bad mood.

Austin
Wow.

Bethany
Obnoxious?

Austin
No. Oh my God. I said that you can be a little over the top sometimes.

Bethany
What is that supposed to mean?

Mel
He also said you were obnoxious.

Austin
Babe, I told you that in private.

Bethany
But you did say that? We don't keep secrets from each other.

Mel
That's what I said, I told him we tell each other everything.

Austin
Look, I'm sorry. I thought we were going to have a romantic date night tonight, so I was just a little disappointed when I found out our date night was cancelled.

Bethany
So now I'm an obnoxious disappointment.

Austin
No.

Mel
Keep digging yourself into a hole, Austin.

Austin
I want to have game night with you, Bethany. I just wish I knew about it before tonight. We really only get one date night a week.

Bethany
People go on dates with groups of friends all the time.

Mel
See!

Austin
This is impossible. Look, I'm really sorry okay? To both of you. I didn't mean to offend either of you, and I don't want to ruin tonight... whether it's date night or game night. Can I make it up to you in any way?

Mel
Don't look at me, you offended my best friend. If she's okay, then I'm okay.

Austin
Bethany?

Bethany
I guess I could consider forgiving you... if you beat me at Monopoly.

Austin
I have to beat you at a game in order for you to forgive me?

Bethany
I haven't lost at Monopoly since I was six years old.

Austin
Okay... well I'll give it my best shot...

Bethany
I gotcha again! I'll forgive you! I'm a forgiving person! I know I could beat you at Monopoly, so you wouldn't have a chance in that deal.

Austin
Oh she did it again. Another prank.

Mel
And you thought she was obnoxious...

Austin
I know... I'm sorry. So that means you forgive me? We can still have our game night?

Bethany
Not quite. I'll forgive you if I can pick the game we play.

Austin
Not Monopoly?

Bethany
No.

Mel
Are you thinking?

Bethany
Oh yes... we're going to play Arkham Horror.

Mel
Yes! I love Arkham Horror!

Austin
What's Arkham Horror?

Bethany
Only the best game ever.

Mel
I'm gonna need to put on another pot of coffee.

Austin
This late? How long does this game take?

Bethany
It usually takes a little over an hour...

Austin
That's not bad...

Bethany
To set up.

Austin
To set up!? How long does it take to play?

Bethany
If we play smart, we should be done in eight hours.

Austin
Eight hours?!

Mel
But we have to set it up and teach Austin...

Bethany
Right... we're looking at closer to ten hours.

Mel
Is that okay?

Austin
Yeah... totally. Anything for you two.

Bethany
See, I knew you'd come around.

Mel
Thanks, babe!

Austin
I can't wait.

End of scene.