

STAGE 9 CLINGER

Mimi Benfield

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Two people on a date.

LAUREN

Wow, Babe! This place is so nice & romantic! Thanks for bringing me here. I feel so appreciated & loved. I could see us coming here for our anniversary.

QUINCY

We literally just met 5 minutes ago. Your Tinder profile said you were looking for something casual.

LAUREN

Yeah, "casual" as in casually committed to each other forever.

QUINCY

Forever?!?

LAUREN

Forever-ever!

QUINCY

Oh no, not again.

SERVER

Hello folks! Can I start you off with some drinks?

QUINCY

Dear God yes! A vodka soda... TALL, please.

SERVER

Would you like to make it a double--

QUINCY

Absolutely! Yes, yes!

SERVER

Sure thing! How about you, ma'am?

LAUREN

Hmmm...I'll have a vegan blue cheese & chocolate martini, neat, on the rocks with a twist of kiwi, please & thank you!

SERVER

Ma'am...this is an Applebee's. How about a margarita?

LAUREN

Is it vegan?

SERVER

Sure.

LAUREN

Okay then. As long as it's vegan!

SERVER

Yes ma'am, one, errr... vegan margarita coming up.

QUINCY

Let me guess, you're a vegan?

LAUREN

Of course, silly! What else would I be? But don't worry, I'm not one of those uppity vegans that talks about it all the time. Even though they'd have the right to since it's the only way a person should live if they have even a shred of humanity in them. I mean...vegan food is not only good for your body but good for the environment and--

Quincy shouts at the server walking towards the bar.

QUINCY

Excuse me! Is there anyway I can change my drink order to just a tall glass filled with only vodka? Or liquor of any sort? Any large amount of alcohol will do.

LAUREN

Oh my Gosh, you're so crazy, Honey. That's one of the reasons I love you so much.

QUINCY

Oh God.

LAUREN

You're so funny!

QUINCY

Yep, that's me. Mister comedy...

SERVER

Okay! Here's a large jug of vodka for you & a... vegan... margarita for you!

LAUREN

Thank you sooooo much!

QUINCY

(GULP, GULP, GULP)

SERVER

Would you like to try an appetizer?

QUINCY

I think just the drinks will do. Can you go ahead & bring the check?

LAUREN

Oh my Gosh...he's joking. I would love an appetizer. What do you recommend that's vegan, raw, soy free & also gluten-free? I have a self-diagnosed allergy.

SERVER

I'm pretty sure the only thing that meets all of your requirements would be our biodegradable straws. I can bring you a small plate of those.

LAUREN

That's sounds great!

SERVER

I was joking.

LAUREN

Oh, you'd better leave the jokes to my boyfriend over here. Haha

Quincy shakes his head repeatedly at the server.

SERVER

Ummm...I'll just give you two a minute.

QUINCY

Please don't go!

Quincy reaches out for the server as he shuffles away.

LAUREN

So, what do you think we should name our first child?

Quincy bangs his head on the table. Lauren doesn't notice & keeps rambling.

QUINCY

(Under his breath) Why does this keep happening to me?

LAUREN

I'm so glad we found each other. I was beginning to worry that I was never going to find Mr. Right. I mean...I keep giving & giving & they just keep taking & Taking & TAKING!

I mean...when I love, I love HARD.

Lauren slams her knife down on the table. Quincy gulps more vodka.

LAUREN

Like...I WILL be there for you. Always. Until the very end.

QUINCY

The end??? (GULP)

LAUREN

I know I'm a good girlfriend, maybe too good. I mean, I'm a lady in the streets & a freak in the sheets but if you ever cheat on me, EVER, I will kill you and your whore & no one will ever find your bodies!

QUINCY

Is it getting hot in here?

LAUREN

Ohhh! Am I turning you on?

QUINCY

Well, if I'm being honest... kind of.

They hold hands across the table & gaze into one another's eyes as the Tinder logo appears over them.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Tinder! What's the worst that could happen? Start swiping today!