

Ricky & Brent Short Story

If you're reading this, hopefully you've read the "Date Dilemma" and are familiar with Ricky, Brent, and Tina. If you haven't read it, don't worry, it won't take you long to understand who these people are and their dynamic.

The PlayStation 5 is off. The PS5 is rarely off. Sometimes it's on rest mode, most of the time it's on, but right now it's off. If you were to put your hand behind it, it'll be cold. Extremely cold because it hasn't been on all day. Ricky's addicted to HellDivers 2 and if he hasn't played, it's because today is Thursday & the everyone who lives with Ricky (just Brent) knows that Thursday is "Theater Thursday." Ricky's weekly trip to the Bay Plaza Theater.

Tina and Brent are sitting on the love seat, the only piece of furniture in the living room that isn't filled with things. Ricky & Brent own a lot of things. Their other sofa has a transformer action figure on it, an unpaid parking ticket, a PS5 remote, an iPad, \$100 dollar bill, and a tennis racket.

Brent's over it. Ricky told Brent to make sure he and Tina were in the apartment by 6:00pm and it's 6:20 and Ricky hasn't shown up yet.

"I'm calling him, it's crazy that he has us waiting here for 20 minutes" Brent knew Ricky wouldn't pick up, but he tried anyways

YO, you've reached Ricky, I'm not here right now, but I'm somewhere, if this is important, just text me

"Ricky, where are you man, it's been 20 minutes, at 6:30 I'm out of here okay." Brent was basically whining at this point. He knows Ricky is a bit dramatic, and didn't see the point of making them wait so long.

As he hangs up the phone, the door bursts open. It's Ricky and he's carrying a manilla envelope.

"What the fuck Ricky, where have you been" Tina's favorite word was fuck. She used it constantly. She would use the word in ways Ricky & Brent had never heard.

Ricky marched in front of the TV, directly in front of Brent & Tina and told them "It's 6:23. 23 minutes after I asked you to arrive. This is around the time that the movie trailers end and Nicole Kidman tells us AMC makes movies better."

Before Tina & Brent could get a word out, Ricky gave each of them a laminated piece of paper that said **RICKYS THEATER GUIDE (RTG)**. The guide was written in a single-spaced 10 point font.

“So, who wants to read the first bullet-point?” Ricky surveyed the room, looking around as if he had expected others to show up

“OH I’ll go!” Tina was jumping out of her chair with excitement. The two guys could never tell if she was being sarcastic or serious.

Rule number 1: ALWAYS remember that the movie starts 23 minutes after the time your ticket says.

“Wait, Ricky didn’t the IMAX cut of Oppenheimer start right away? Like I read the film was so long, and the IMAX reel was just so dense, they decided to cut the trailers out” Tina had a smug look on her face as she schooled Ricky, she enjoyed one-upping him and Brent.

“OH YEAH! She got you Ricky.” Brent always loved when Tina schooled Ricky, it’s his third favorite thing about her. The second being how charming she is, somehow her using the F-word doesn’t take away from that. And his favorite thing about her was how smart she was. She knew everything.

Ricky gave Tina a stone-cold look and moved on to his next talking point: “I’ve purchased us tickets to go see Challengers at 8:30 in Bay Plaza, that’ll take me to rule number 2...

Rule number 2: Wear AirPods (or some other form of earbuds) while you’re waiting in line to get your ticket checked and in line for concessions.

Ricky didn’t give them a chance to jump in, he took this one extremely seriously and immediately started breaking down why. He spoke with such haste and urgency that any audience would have surely heeded his advice, but this was Brent & Tina, they were doing their best to keep a straight face.

“Listen guys, every second you’re in a theater is a second that you were open to spoilers. The theater lobby is a warzone and earbuds are our bulletproof vests. Our best protection against spoilers. People love talking about the movie once they get out. We need to protect ourselves from that. I remember buying popcorn before I saw *Wolf Of Wall Street* and a guy came out of the theater talking about DiCaprio sniffing coke out of someone’s asshole.”

“Bro, that’s not a spoiler, it didn’t take away anything from the plot.” Brent was perplexed as to how this detail altered Ricky’s viewing experience.

“ANY DETAIL that I didn’t see in the trailers are considered spoilers. Which brings me to rule number 3.”

Rule Number 3: ONCE THE CREDITS START, WE EACH GIVE OUR RATING FROM 1-10, AND THEN WALK TO THE CAR IN SILENCE. WE WILL USE THAT TIME TO COLLECT OUR THOUGHTS AND RESPECT OUR FELLOW PEERS.

Tina couldn't wait to press Ricky's buttons: "Why is this one in caps?"

"Because it's the most important rule Tina, the only one that if broken, can ruin the experiences of others. The theater is our church, let's respect that" Ricky said calmly, he went from a pastor giving a sermon, to a priest quietly consoling his parishioners.

Tina fired back "So why isn't it rule number 1 then?"

Brent jumped in "Bro, I don't even want to go if you're going to give us all these rules, you're taking the fun out of it."

Tina put her arm around Brent and gently said "Ricky has his rules, he paid for the tickets, I think we should follow them. I'll read the fourth one, Ricky..."

Rule Number 4: Refrain from buying any real food (i.e. Pretzels, churros, tortilla chips, hotdogs, chicken fingers).

Tina continued "I think I know why, is it because the chewing will disrupt other people? The theater is a place to watch and enjoy movies, right? We're escaping from our reality and diving into a new world, nobody needs to hear a pretzel or chip crunch right?"

"TINA YES, YOU FINALLY GET IT" Ricky threw his paper into the air and ran to dap her up. She got it and in his mind the checklist was complete.

"Okay guys, we can review the rest in the car, let's go!" Ricky grabbed his keys and ran out the door.

Brent and Tina exchanged a quiet smirk and called him as he raced out.

"Bro wait!"

Ricky stopped dead in his tracks and turned around. "What's good? We're going to be late?"

Brent took a second to compose himself. After that second was up he asked Ricky a very important question: "Do you avoid those foods because you're going to have to take a shit mid movie? Remember that's why you didn't do dinner & a movie with that girl."

End.