

ALMOST PERFECT

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By Trevor Suthers

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Across a table, two young people,  
SHAUN and SHANNON, are staring  
lovingly in each other's eyes.

SHAUN  
You know something...

SHANNON  
Yes?

SHAUN  
You know what you are, don't you...

SHANNON  
What?

SHAUN  
You're perfect.

SHANNON  
(Chuckles)  
Don't be silly.

SHAUN  
No, you are, you're perfection itself.

SHANNON  
Nobody's perfect.

SHAUN  
That's what I would have said, before I met you.

SHANNON  
You're being ridiculous.

SHAUN  
No, really, you're flawless.

SHANNON  
You wouldn't say that if you knew me better. Believe me, I  
have plenty of flaws.

SHAUN  
None that I've ever noticed.

SHANNON  
You can't say anyone's flawless, we all have our faults, we  
all have things about us, little quirks that annoy other  
people. We've only known each other a week. Just give it  
time and I'm sure there'll be dozens of things about me that  
will start to irritate you.

SHAUN

You could never irritate me. In fact I can't believe my luck in meeting you. You're just perfect in every way.

SHANNON

Stop it now. Anyway, I don't believe you. What about me always being late? We've had three dates so far and I've kept you waiting every time.

SHAUN

I don't mind waiting. I'd wait forever for you, really I would.

SHANNON

No you wouldn't, but if we carry on seeing each other you'll get plenty of practise.

SHAUN

We are going to carry on seeing each other, aren't we?

SHANNON

Of course we are.

SHAUN

Oh, thank goodness, for a minute there...

SHANNON

No, I really like you.

SHAUN

You do?

SHANNON

Of course I do.

SHAUN

I adore you.

SHANNON

You're so sweet.

SHAUN

Not as sweet as you.

SHANNON

Oh I'm not so sweet as you think I am.

SHAUN

I don't think you could be sweeter.

SHANNON

You're still saying you can find no fault with me? None whatsoever?

SHAUN

That's what I'm saying.

SHANNON

Oh, I know something, here's an annoying little quirk of mine, bound to get on your nerves - twirling my hair. I'm always doing it - I'm doing it now.

SHAUN

Your hair is lovely. If I had hair as beautiful as yours I'd be twirling it all the time.

SHANNON

My hair's a mess. I know you're only being nice and everything but no matter how much you like someone there's always going to be something about them that annoys you. I had this boyfriend once, every time he came in a room he'd take his trainers off and start to scratch the soles of his feet - it drove me crazy, not to mention...

SHAUN

I don't have itchy feet, and if I did I'd be sure to only scratch them in private.

SHANNON

That's because you're very considerate.

SHAUN

I'd never do anything to offend you.

SHANNON

I wish I could say the same.

SHAUN

I can't imagine you offending anyone.

SHANNON

Really? You must have noticed when we went to the movies and I started talking and commenting on the action, there were a few people in the audience who probably didn't appreciate me prattling on, it's just that I can't stop myself...

SHAUN

It didn't bother me. I'm always interested in anything you have to say.

SHANNON

Now come on, seriously, I know what I'm like - there must be some little peculiarity about me that annoys you, just a little bit.

SHAUN

Nope, can't think of anything.

SHANNON

Yes you can. You know I suck my thumb when I'm reading or concentrating on something - I've seen you look at me.

SHAUN

I think it's sexy.

SHANNON

You're hopeless. Come on now, I insist. You have to think of one thing I do or say or something about me that you don't find adorable. OK? Just one tiny imperfection. I insist.

SHAUN

You insist?

SHANNON

I insist.

SHAUN

Well...

SHANNON

Ah, see, there is one thing. Come on, out with it.

SHAUN

It's nothing really.

SHANNON

Come on, you have to say it. Humour me. I'm going to pry it out of you one way or another.

SHAUN

It's such a small thing...

SHANNON

Now we're not talking about your imperfections, we're talking about me.

SHAUN

My imperfections?

SHANNON

It's such a small thing?

SHAUN

Sorry, I don't know what...

SHANNON

Oh never mind.

SHAUN

Oh, a small thing, oh I get it, you're referring to...

SHANNON

Come on now, I'm only kidding.

SHAUN

I love your sense of humour.

SHANNON

Sense of humour aside, come on. I'm waiting. Just one little thing that bugs you.

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