

# AL DENTE

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A one-act comedy by  
Sierra DuCharme-Hansen

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

LUCY, main character, attending culinary school. She lives with her best friend, Carter. She is very optimistic, but easily tricked.

CARTER, Lucy's best friend. While male, he has no romantic feelings at all towards Lucy. Brotherly, but a little too over protective and does not trust Jimmy. He is going to school for Interior Design.

JIMMY, love interest of Lucy. He is very loyal to his family, even though that leads to trouble. He is studying Film Production.

KATHERINE, antagonist. She is up against Lucy for the cooking internship. She is very dedicated and strong-willed, but to the point of pushing others down to get where she wants to go.

MADELINE, MADELINE II and CAROLYN, Katherine's friends. Always follow her lead, and eventually become annoyed with her.

CHEF, teacher. Feels pressure from Katherine's dad to pass her but has a good moral compass. He is a parental figure in Lucy's life.

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**SCENE 1**

*(Curtain opens on CARTER sitting on a couch flipping through a magazine. LUCY walks in, practically skipping with joy. Carter doesn't look up from his magazine when she walks in.)*

**LUCY:** Hey, there!

**CARTER:** Hey. *(Looks and sees that she is smiling:)* What's up, smiley?

**LUCY:** You know that internship that the culinary program offers to work at Bostonia...?

**CARTER:** Yeah.

**LUCY:** Really?

**CARTER:** No.

*(Lucy sits down next to Carter.)*

**LUCY:** Well, there is this internship that the culinary program offers where you get to work at Bostonia and –

**CARTER:** Bostonia?

**LUCY:** Bostonia. It's that restaurant I was telling you about last week. It has the simplest yet most eloquent menu that I have ever –

**CARTER:** Do you ever stop thinking about that stuff? *(Off-handily:)* You might actually have a boyfriend if you –

**LUCY:** Hey now –

**CARTER:** What? Am I wrong?

**LUCY:** You know, you don't know everything about me.

**CARTER:** There's a guy?

**LUCY:** Well, yeah, kind of. His name's Jimmy, I'm sure he doesn't even remember me but he works at the library and I've

seen him around, (*Off Carter's odd look:*) but not in a stalker way. Anyways, there is an internship.

(*Carter groans, but turns to listen all the same.*)

They only give out one a year and I got nominated!

**CARTER:** Well, yeah.

**LUCY:** What do you mean (*Mocking his voice:*) "well, yeah"?

**CARTER:** It means I knew you could do it. Duh. Lucy, I'm shocked they didn't just give it to you...and I don't talk like that.

**LUCY:** (*Smiling and blushing.*) Oh, shut up, Carter. I only got nominated. The other girl is like 10 times better than me. We find out tomorrow who got it and I—

**CARTER:** Calm down. This is a good thing. God, you've been like this since third grade. Remember when you made the model of Jupiter for the science fair and judges were doing their judging thing? You weren't more than nine years old and you were so nervous that you fainted. You literally fainted. Let's not have another Jupiter moment. There's nothing you can do now but wait and stay conscious.

(*Carter stands up and walks off.*)

**LUCY:** I know but still... Wait, what are you doing?

**CARTER:** (*Off:*) I'm getting your coat. You can either worry all night, or you can come get some frozen yogurt with me.

(*Carter walks back on stage.*)

Your choice.

**LUCY:** (*Joking:*) Hmm...I do enjoy worrying all night. But I'll have to go with...frozen yogurt.

**CARTER:** Good choice.

*(They both walk off. Blackout.)*

**SCENE 2**

*(MADELINE, MADELINE II, CAROLYN, and KATHERINE all sit in a similar looking space; but much more pink.)*

**MADELINE:** Oh my god, Katherine, you will never –

**KATHERINE:** Ugh! I can't believe her, the nerve of that girl to go after my internship. I deserve it. I have connections in this school and she just bats her eyes and uses her girl-next-door charm to squirm her way into my internship.

**MADELINE:** Wait...what's her name?

**KATHERINE:** I don't know...Lucinda or something. She's in our class, you would know if you showed up today...or ever.

**CAROLYN:** Sounds ugly.

**MADELINE:** Yeah.

**MADELINE II:** Totes!

*(The Girls begin to chat.)*

**KATHERINE:** Shhh!

**CAROLYN:** You'll get it. The rep from the restaurant will obviously like you better. You have flair.

**MADELINE:** Especially compared to Miss Casual Friday even when it isn't Friday.

**MADELINE II:** Anyways, Chef Boyardee loves you.

**CAROLYN:** Do you mean, Chef Yante?

**MADELINE:** That's what she said!

**CAROLYN:** Nu Uh!

*(Madeline I and II murmur yes, no and assorted argumentative words.)*



**KATHERINE:** I don't want to talk about this anymore. I need to think about something else.

**MADELINE:** When that happens to me I usually go shopping.

**MADELINE II:** Spending money always helps me clear all of my thoughts

**CAROLYN:** What thoughts?

**MADELINE II:** Hey, I am a deep person, Carolyn. I have feelings and –

**CAROLYN:** Yeah sure, Madeline. Just like –

**KATHERINE:** Girls, shut up. Shopping isn't actually a horrible idea. Come on.

*(The Girls follow Katherine out. Blackout)*

**SCENE 3**

*(Lucy, Katherine, and The Girls are all sitting behind tables as CHEF teaches.)*

**CHEF:** So as you can see, when you mix –

*(He is interrupted by the bell.)*

See you all tomorrow. But before you leave I need to make an announcement. As I said a few days ago, the two nominees for the Bostonia internship are Katherine Van Oldrin and Lucy Jenson.

**THE GIRLS:** Yay!

*(They clap unnecessarily.)*

**KATHERINE:** *(To The Girls with a death glare:)* Shhh! *(To Chef with a fake smile:)* So sorry, Chef. As you were saying...

**CHEF:** Mhm. You're both immensely talented. However, we can't give the internship to you both so we are going to have a cook-off next Monday, one week from today. You need to prepare a recipe for a one-course meal to be plated in less than two hours. Any questions, you can come find me outside class.

*(The Girls and Lucy begin to grab their belongings. Lucy pulls out her phone and calls Carter. The Girls and Katherine chat while Chef begins to clean up the classroom.)*

**LUCY:** Hey, Carter! ... I'm headed to library and I was wondering if you wanted to come ... Carter! ... I actually have to study ... No, okay? I don't know if Jimmy's going to be there ... Well, I mean I wouldn't complain if he was, but... Well, are you coming or not?

*(Lucy exits, still on the phone. Katherine gives Lucy a dirty look as she leaves and then turns her attention to Chef.)*

**KATHERINE:** Hello, Chef? I was wondering if I could talk to

you for a second.

**CHEF:** Of course, Ms. Van Oldrin, what may I help you with?

*(The Girls are still on stage awkwardly waiting for Katherine to leave with them. Katherine stares at them.)*

**KATHERINE:** Bye.

*(The Girls leave with assorted "ohs" and "byes.")*

*(Overly nice/fake:)* Well, Chef. It's just that I'm a tad confused on this whole "cook-off." I would just hate to sound ungrateful, but I think it is fairly obvious who the better cook is. I mean, isn't it?

**CHEF:** Actually I just addressed this during class. I believe you were there.

**KATHERINE:** But Chef. You know that this is a place where I normally excel.

**CHEF:** To excel in this you are going to have to put some effort in.

**KATHERINE:** I would hate to get my father involved.

**CHEF:** Katherine—

**KATHERINE:** I'm not threatening you. My father, your boss, is just very protective of his little girl.

**CHEF:** I have to go now. You are free to stay and work on your meal for next week if you would like.

*(Chef exits in one direction and The Girls from another.)*

**KATHERINE:** *(Takes a deep breath, hand on hip—agitated:)* That didn't go as planned.

**MADLINE:** Oh.

**KATHERINE:** He's just playing favorites.

**MADLINE II:** Oh.

**CAROLYN:** But you're his favorite.

**KATHERINE:** I used to be. Now I'm second place to Little Miss Perfect. I can't lose to her. She is just too...too...

**CAROLYN:** Lame. Perky. Nauseating. (*Off of a confused look from the Madelines:*) Makes her want to throw up.

(*Beat.*)

**MADLINE I AND II:** Oh...

**KATHERINE:** Shut up. I need to think. She's always so focused. I need to distract her.

**MADLINE II:** Boys!

**CAROLYN:** What?

**MADLINE:** Boys are distracting. Mitch was like totally the reason I flunked Pastry 101 last semester.

**CAROLYN:** Yeah, sure. That's why you flunked.

**MADLINE:** Hey!

(*Katherine isn't looking at The Girls, but is in a trance thinking about her next move.*)

**KATHERINE:** You're right...

**CAROLYN:** I know, right!

**KATHERINE:** No, not you. The Madelines.

**MADLINE I AND II:** Really?

**KATHERINE:** I know. Shocker. But you're right. Boys are distracting. Lucy just needs a guy.

**CAROLYN:** Doesn't she already have one? Carson...?

**KATHERINE:** Oh, that Carter guy she is always hanging around with? No, he's dating that one guy from Econ.

**CAROLYN:** What's his name again?

**KATHERINE:** Marcus?

**MADELINE:** Her name's Marcus?

**MADELINE II:** That's—

**MADELINE I AND II:** —totally tragic.

**CAROLYN:** *(Counting down on her fingers from five:)* Wait for it...

**MADELINE I AND II:** Oh...oh! Totally my bad! Sorry.

**KATHERINE:** Whatever—point is we need to find somebody else...oh! What was the name Lucy said today in class? Uhm...Jimmy?

*(She takes her cell phone out of her purse and dials.)*

Daddy? Hi! How are you?...I'm just peachy!...I was wondering if you could possibly look up a name for me? Yeah, Jimmy. I think he works at the library...

*(Katherine smiles. Blackout.)*

**SCENE 4**

*(Katherine and The Girls are sitting in the classroom looking bored. JIMMY enters.)*

**JIMMY:** Hello?

**KATHERINE:** Hello, so great that you could meet me, *(With a smile:)* 20 minutes late...

**JIMMY:** Yeah, *(Looking around:)* sorry about that. I guess I've never been in this building before.

**MADELINE:** *(Flirting:)* Hi, my name is Madeline.

**MADELINE II:** So is mine!

**MADELINE:** Yours is Jimmy, correct?

**JIMMY:** *(Confused:)* Yep... *(Shifts his attention back to Katherine:)* Uhm...I got a call from the Dean's Office telling me that Katherine wanted to meet with me...?

**KATHERINE:** That's me. How are you?

**JIMMY:** Fine...I guess. What's going on?

**KATHERINE:** *(Very fake sounding:)* Oh, nothing huge. I just think I found the perfect girl for you. She is just the cutest! *(Pause.)* She has this whole girl-next-door vibe going for her and I met her in class and –

**JIMMY:** Uhm...no offense, but I *just* met you. It's actually a little creepy that you're setting me up...

**KATHERINE:** I've just heard around campus that a certain girl has a bit of a crush on you and thought I could help you out. I'm sorry my kindness came off as creepy...

**JIMMY:** Yeah, sorry about that. Uhm...but I think I'm gonna head out.

**KATHERINE:** Wait.

*(Jimmy turns around and waits. Beat.)*

*(Dropping the happy act:)* Fine. You want to know the truth?

**JIMMY:** I do.

**KATHERINE:** Okay, this annoying little...gnat...is ruining my chances at my cooking internship. It would be a lot easier if she was...distracted.

**JIMMY:** Okay, I just don't see what how I—

**KATHERINE:** Well, that's why you're here, isn't it? I want you to ask her out. I don't care if you like her—just for the next week play the perfect boyfriend and take her for a romantic walk in the park or whatever—I don't care—just keep Lucy out from this kitchen until next Monday.

**JIMMY:** Lucy Jenson?

**KATHERINE:** Yeah...I think. Why, do you know her?

**JIMMY:** Yes, well no. I mean...I see her in the library sometimes. *(Shakes his head to return to reality.)* But doesn't this seem a little low? You scared you can't beat her fair and square?

**KATHERINE:** *(Looks angry then says after composing herself:)* Well, that's just none of your business is it?

**JIMMY:** *(Standing his ground:)* I think it is.

**KATHERINE:** Oh, a little touchy, are we?

**JIMMY:** Katherine, I don't know why you would think I would do this.

**KATHERINE:** Then I don't think I can keep my mouth shut about Jennifer and her...past.

*(Jimmy looks shocked and confused. He takes Katherine to the other side of the stage to be away from The Girls.)*

**JIMMY:** *(Quietly:)* How do you know about that?

**KATHERINE:** I'm the Dean's daughter. I have my sources.

*(Beat.)*

So, reconsidering?

**JIMMY:** *(Pained and unsure of what to do. He says the next line almost through his teeth:)* Fine. Fine, just tell me what to do.

**KATHERINE:** Well, there we go. Was that so hard?

**JIMMY:** Yes.

**KATHERINE:** Well, I'm sor —

**JIMMY:** *(Abruptly:)* But Katherine, this is it. *(Intense, but not loud:)* If I do this, Jennifer's secret is safe.

**KATHERINE:** Oh, of course. Scout's honor.

*(Blackout.)*



## SCENE 5

*(Lucy, Katherine, Girls, and Chef all are in the kitchen. Class is just ending.)*

**CHEF:** Okay, everybody read chapter three for tomorrow – it's all about stew. I know – riveting stuff.

**LUCY:** *(Raising her hand timidly:)* Uh, Chef? Would it be possible for me to stay for a bit and work on my recipe?

**CHEF:** That's fine. My meeting starts in 10 minutes though – you'll be okay by yourself?

**LUCY:** Of course, thank you.

**CHEF:** Good luck – I can't wait to see what you're going to make.

*(Chef exits.)*

**LUCY:** Yeah, me either...

**KATHERINE:** Hey...Lucinda? I just wanted to say good luck.

**THE GIRLS:** Yeah, good luck.

*(Katherine and The Girls all exit.)*

**LUCY:** It's Lucy...never mind.

*(Jimmy bumps into Katherine on his way in, sharing a look with her.)*

**JIMMY:** *(Takes a deep breath.)* Excuse me?

**LUCY:** *(Not realizing who it is.)* Yes?

*(She looks at him.)*

Oh! *(Embarrassed about over-reacting:)* I mean...hi.

*(Lucy turns around with a look of utter embarrassment.)*

**JIMMY:** Hi, my name's Jimmy. It's Lucy, right?

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*(Lucy whips around, excited that he know her name.)*

**LUCY:** Yeah. Jimmy, don't you like to... *(Realizes this sounds creepy but has to finish the sentence:)* read? *(Trying to change the subject:)* Oh, are you looking for Chef? He just left and I don't think he'll be back for a while

**JIMMY:** I think I'm in the wrong building.

**LUCY:** Oh, I'm sorry. This is the culinary building— what are you looking for?

**JIMMY:** Uh...the student center...?

**LUCY:** You don't know where the student center is?

*(Beat.)*

The building next to the library?

**JIMMY:** Oh...is there only one?

**LUCY:** Yeah.

**JIMMY:** Oh, my bad.

**LUCY:** No biggie.

**JIMMY:** *(Deep breath.)* So, you're in the foods program?

**LUCY:** What? Oh, *(A little flustered, plays with her hair:)* yeah. I am.

**JIMMY:** That's really cool. I can't cook to save my life, or anybody else's for that matter.

**LUCY:** I'm sure you can. You just don't know the tricks.

**JIMMY:** Maybe you could...give me a lesson some time? You know, as long as your boyfriend wouldn't have a problem with that...

**LUCY:** *(Caught off-guard:)* Oh no, uhm...no boyfriend.

**JIMMY:** Oh.

**LUCY:** Yeah.

**JIMMY:** So, are you free tonight?

**LUCY:** Yeah! I mean, uh...yeah. I mean I was just going to— hey, how about I just cook something for the two of us?

**JIMMY:** You would do that?

**LUCY:** Yeah sure, but I'm not sure if we could do it here

**JIMMY:** Well, I would invite you to my place but unless you can whip something up using ramen and a spork...

**LUCY:** Why don't you just come over to my place? (*Awkward silence.*) I'm guessing you'll want my address then. Uhm...I live near campus.

*(Lucy pulls out a piece of paper and pen from her backpack very awkwardly, writes her number on it, and hands it to Jimmy.)*

Here's my number — text me?

**JIMMY:** Sounds good. See you then, wait...when's then?

**LUCY:** Oh...eight?

**JIMMY:** Well, see ya'

*(Jimmy exits.)*

**LUCY:** Bye... (*Sighs and then to herself:*) Eeepp!

*(Blackout.)*

**SCENE 6**

*(Lucy and Carter are in their apartment.)*

**CARTER:** Hey Luc, what's with the cleaning?

**LUCY:** Someone's coming over.

**CARTER:** Oh fun, company! It smells good too. What are we eating?

**LUCY:** We *(Points between herself and Carter:)* are not eating anything.

**CARTER:** What...oh my god. Do you have a...Lucy Jenson, do you have a date?

**LUCY:** Maybe...

**CARTER:** Oh my god!!

*(They both do a girly squeal thing.)*

I am a guy. A manly man.

**LUCY:** *(Laughs a little.)* Yeah, sure. Real manly.

**CARTER:** Oh shut up.

*(Beat.)*

So, who's this guy?

*(Lucy sighs.)*

**LUCY:** Jimmy...

**CARTER:** The library guy? His haircut is a little...odd.

**LUCY:** Yeah, the guy from the library.

*(Beat.)*

Wait, when did you see him?

**CARTER:** I may have gone down to the library to see who the

guy was...

**LUCY:** Carter!

**CARTER:** I didn't do anything wrong...

**LUCY:** Okay. So you saw him, what did you think?

**CARTER:** I don't know...he didn't really seem like the "Lucy Jenson" type.

**LUCY:** I have a type?

**CARTER:** He was talking to a lot of girls.

**LUCY:** Were they checking out books?

**CARTER:** Well, I mean...yes.

**LUCY:** That's his job, Carter. When did this turn from "Yay you have a date!" to "I don't approve"?

**CARTER:** Okay. Fine. I heard some rumors from The Girls in my English class that he goes on a lot of first dates.

**LUCY:** Oh...

**CARTER:** I just don't want you to be hurt when he doesn't want to go out a second time.

**LUCY:** You don't know that's what's going to happen.

**CARTER:** You're right, Luc. So, what's his major?

**LUCY:** Uhm...I don't know

**CARTER:** You don't know?

**LUCY:** Well, no

**CARTER:** What's his last name?

**LUCY:** It's...uhm...well...how important are last names anyway?

**CARTER:** How much do you really know about this guy?

**LUCY:** Well, uhm...I guess not that much. I think that's what a first date is for though.

**CARTER:** You invited him over to our house and you only know his first name?

**LUCY:** It's not creepy. He stopped by the kitchen by accident and we started to talk and he asked me out. It was pretty sudden, but not in a weird way or anything.

**CARTER:** He was in the kitchen by accident?

**LUCY:** Yeah, he was looking for the second student center...

**CARTER:** The second student center?

**LUCY:** Yeah...

**CARTER:** You know that I trust you and I am very happy for you, but I'm just a little concerned. This guy doesn't seem very...legit.

**LUCY:** What are you freaking out about? We aren't getting married. We are just having one date—actually that date is any time now. I love you, but bye!

*(Lucy begins to push Carter out the door.)*

**CARTER:** I love you too. That is why there is no way I'm letting this sketchy guy come into our house without me talking to him.

**LUCY:** Yeah, *(Laughs.)* but no not happening. Bye...

*(A knock on the door.)*

He's here. Fine whatever. You say hi, do the bro handshake hug thing if you feel like it then you leave. Got it?

**CARTER:** Yes, yes. I'll get the door.

**LUCY:** No, no you won' –

*(Carter opens the door and Jimmy walks in. Lucy is freaking out and tries – and fails – to look casual as Jimmy walks in.)*

**LUCY:** Hi, Jimmy...

**JIMMY:** Hey, Lucy. How're –

**CARTER:** Hello there, Jimmy? I'm Carter and I am –

**LUCY:** Leaving, he is leaving. Bye.

*(Carter rolls his eyes, grabs his coat and exits after giving Carter an "I'm watching you" look.)*

**JIMMY:** Uh...?

**LUCY:** Sorry, that's my roommate.

**JIMMY:** You room with a guy?

**LUCY:** I guess, but we've been next door neighbors since, well ever. We've always been super close.

**JIMMY:** How super close?

**LUCY:** What...? Oh! No, no, no, no, we aren't dating if that's what you mean. No! I mean, eww, I mean no. No, no, no, no.

**CARTER:** *(Off:)* Seriously? I'm an attractive person – is it that unreasonable that you –

**LUCY:** Oh my god Carter, leave already!

*(Beat.)*

Sorry Jimmy, he shouldn't be a problem anymore.

**JIMMY:** Okay...

*(Jimmy looks very guilty.)*

**LUCY:** Everything alright?

**JIMMY:** Yeah, I'm fine. A little hungry I guess.

**LUCY:** Well, that shouldn't be a problem. I think I made enough food to feed an army. Here sit down. I'll go grab some.

*(Lucy exits stage right.)*

**JIMMY:** Sounds good. I like your place.

**LUCY:** *(Off:)* Thanks, but I have to admit that Carter's the neat freak. And....

*(Lucy walks back on stage with two plates of food.)*

...here we go.

**JIMMY:** Yum! So, what is this?

**LUCY:** Something new I'm trying *(Laughs.)* I have to make a recipe by Friday to compete for this culinary internship.

*(Jimmy coughs, caught by surprise.)*

Are you okay?

**JIMMY:** Yeah. So, you were saying something about an internship?

**LUCY:** Uhm...yeah. It's between me and this one other girl, Katherine.

**JIMMY:** What's she like?

**LUCY:** Oh, well, she's very talented. She um...

**JIMMY:** You hate her, don't you?

**LUCY:** I don't hate her. She calls me Lucinda or something, and she's really competitive.

**JIMMY:** But you don't hate her?

**LUCY:** No!

**JIMMY:** Why not?



*(Both laugh.)*

**LUCY:** Maybe you're right. So, enough about me. What about you?

**JIMMY:** Well, my name is Jimmy. I'm an Aries. April Fools birthday.

**LUCY:** Really?

**JIMMY:** No.

**LUCY:** Oh.

**JIMMY:** *(Laughing:)* April Fools, it really is!

**LUCY:** *(Laughs.)* It's January.

**JIMMY:** You can't pull an April Fools joke in April—everybody is expecting it then! That takes all the fun out of it.

*(They both laugh, and then there is an awkward silence. They both look at each other and then look away.)*

That was horrible. That was a horrible joke.

**LUCY:** No, it uh...it wasn't that bad.

**JIMMY:** Don't lie, it was.

**LUCY:** Okay — it wasn't good.

*(They both laugh more genuinely now.)*

**JIMMY:** This is delicious. Thank you.

**LUCY:** You're welcome. Thanks for being my guinea pig

**JIMMY:** How'd you get into cooking in the first place?

**LUCY:** Actually, my grandma was a big cook.

**JIMMY:** You guys were close?

**LUCY:** Really close. I would go over to her house every Sunday and help make dinner with her. She passed away a couple years back and left me her recipe cards. (*Getting lost in the memory.*) She wouldn't show those to another living soul when she was alive. But that's when I decided I was going to open a restaurant someday and call it Nana Jenson's.

**JIMMY:** That's sweet.

**LUCY:** Thanks. And you? How did you get into...?

**JIMMY:** Film editing.

**LUCY:** That's really cool. I don't know anything about that.

**JIMMY:** Well, how about I give you a tour of the studio in exchange for those cooking lessons?

**LUCY:** Deal.

*(Blackout.)*

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**SCENE 7**

*(Lucy is asleep on the couch with a blanket on top of her. Carter is trying to wake her up.)*

**CARTER:** You have to get up Luc.

**LUCY:** *(Groggily:)* No, I don't.

**CARTER:** Lucy, it's 8:45. You have class in 15 minutes. I thought you were already u—

*(Lucy snaps up to a seated position.)*

**LUCY:** It's 8:45?! I'm gonna be late. I can't make a good impression on Chef if I'm late a few days before the huge internship...cook-off...thingy!

**CARTER:** Don't worry—go change quick, rush down there and you'll be fine.

**LUCY:** Right, right, right.

*(Lucy hurries offstage.)*

**CARTER:** So, I came in at about 11 last night and you were passed out on the couch alone. I just went to bed, but now I need to know the whole story.

*(Lucy rushes back on, having done a quick change.)*

**LUCY:** He came over, we ate, talked, he left, I fell asleep watching TV. Thanks for the blanket.

**CARTER:** No problemo. Did you have fun?

**LUCY:** Yeah, actually I did. He's really sweet and funny and asked me on a second date, so take that!

*(She looks at her phone.)*

And I am really, really late.

**CARTER:** Yes you are, but first I just want to warn you to be

careful with this guy, Luc, he sounds a little –

*(Lucy grabs her backpack and runs out stage left.)*

– sketchy. And you're gone. *(Talking to himself mocking Lucy by having a pretend conversation with himself:)* "Thank you Carter for your sage advice, maybe you should meet him and then you could really tell if he is worthy to date me." "Oh yes Lucy, I would love to do that." "Thank you! I don't think I could possibly ever have a better friend." "That is right, Lucy –"

*(Jimmy knocks on the door. Carter answers.)*

**JIMMY:** Oh, hi. You're...Carter, right?

**CARTER:** Yes.

**JIMMY:** I'm –

**CARTER:** I know who you are.

**JIMMY:** Uh – so, is Lucy here?

**CARTER:** No.

**JIMMY:** Oh. Is she –

**CARTER:** She's at class. You know that whole school thing?

**JIMMY:** I'm sorry, I'll just come back later.

**CARTER:** You don't need to do that. *(Still cold:)* I think that we should have a little talk.

**JIMMY:** Oh, um, well actually I have to –

*(Carter points to the couch.)*

**CARTER:** Sit.

*(Jimmy sits.)*

**JIMMY:** Okay.

*(A few moments of awkward silence. It is kind of a*

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*father-boyfriend on the first date conversation.)*

**CARTER:** So, you said you were here to see Lucy.

**JIMMY:** Yes I did.

*(Carter begins to pace back and forth, trying to look intimidating.)*

**CARTER:** That wasn't a question.

**JIMMY:** Excuse me?

**CARTER:** I know you were here to see Lucy. You sure weren't here to see me.

*(Carter stands behind Jimmy.)*

**JIMMY:** Uh—

**CARTER:** Okay, so I'm just going to cut to the chase.

**JIMMY:** Go for it.

**CARTER:** I don't really like you.

**JIMMY:** Oh.

**CARTER:** Okay. I'm sorry, that was rude. Let me rephrase that—I don't trust you.

*(Carter sits down next to Jimmy.)*

**JIMMY:** Really?

**CARTER:** Lucy means the world to me. I have known her for years. She is my best friend, basically my sister.

**JIMMY:** Oh.

**CARTER:** Yeah, so as her brother it is my right to tell you: if you make my girl cry, or hurt her in any way, I will hurt you. And if you think I'm joking—I promise you I'm not.

*(Beat.)*

Nice seeing you. Goodbye.

*(Beat.)*

I said goodbye.

**JIMMY:** Oh.

*(Beat. Jimmy exits awkwardly, waving. Blackout.)*

**SCENE 8**

*(Lucy and Jimmy are in the kitchen, on their second date.)*

**LUCY:** This is the kitchen.

**JIMMY:** I see.

**LUCY:** We have the preparation areas, the stoves, and all the food is in the back storage room.

**JIMMY:** Next time we're going to the studio. I swear I don't know how to even turn half of these things on...

**LUCY:** You'll catch on. Ready for that cooking lesson?

**JIMMY:** As ready as I'm gonna be. Just go slow with me.

**LUCY:** Okay. So, this is a stove.

*(Jimmy laughs.)*

Too slow?

**JIMMY:** Just a bit.

**LUCY:** So, stove. And over here we have uncooked elbow noodles; mozzarella, pepper jack, and cheddar cheese; spices; a pot; olive oil; butter; a spoon; and my grandma's secret ingredient.

**JIMMY:** Okay. Noodles. What's the next step?

**LUCY:** Boiling the water.

**JIMMY:** With the stove!

**LUCY:** See, you are learning!

**JIMMY:** I'm basically a chef.

**LUCY:** Basically.

**JIMMY:** I knew it!

**LUCY:** Okay, Chef. I'm going to give you a very difficult job. Ready?

**JIMMY:** Yes ma'am.

*(Lucy hands Jimmy the pot:)*

**LUCY:** Fill this just under halfway with water.

**JIMMY:** From the sink.

**LUCY:** Why am I even here?

**JIMMY:** The student has become the master.

*(Lucy laughs.)*

So what are we making exactly?

**LUCY:** Al dente mac and cheese.

**JIMMY:** Al dente?

**LUCY:** It means the noodles aren't quite cooked all the way.

**JIMMY:** They aren't done? I guess we're all not quite done, are we?

**LUCY:** Exactly.

*(Lucy looks at Jimmy and obviously they aren't talking about noodles anymore.)*

They're my favorite.

**JIMMY:** Is that so?

*(Jimmy sets down the pot and takes a step towards Lucy.)*

**LUCY:** It is. Some things aren't meant to be done.

**JIMMY:** And some things are.

*(Jimmy kisses Lucy. Blackout.)*



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**SCENE 9**

*(Chef, Katherine, Lucy, and The Girls are all in class.)*

**CHEF:** Well, that's all for today. You are all free to go, but Lucy and Katherine, may I speak to you a second?

*(The Girls exit.)*

So, girls. Three days left. Are you both ready?

**KATHERINE:** Oh, of course Chef.

**LUCY:** *(Lying:)* Yep.

**CHEF:** Anything I can do to help?

**KATHERINE:** No, everything is going wonderfully. I was talking to my father last night and he is very proud of what I have come up with.

**CHEF:** That's great, Katherine. Did he say anything else?

**KATHERINE:** Just that he knows that a teacher and chef as profound as you would know to pick the best candidate possible.

**LUCY:** Can I use the kitchen tonight?

**KATHERINE:** *(Sweetly:)* Not as ready as you said? *(After an awkward pause:)* Just kidding.

**CHEF:** Thank you, Katherine. I will see you tomorrow. Send my regards to your father.

**KATHERINE:** I'll be sure to do that. Bye now!

*(Katherine exits walking after The Girls.)*

**CHEF:** Lucy, are you okay?

**LUCY:** Sure. Why wouldn't I be?

**CHEF:** You look...nervous.

**LUCY:** I'm fine.

**CHEF:** Here's what I'm going to do. I'm going to leave, and have the door unlocked until the janitor comes sometime around 11. If you want, I trust you to stay and work.

**LUCY:** Thank you, Chef.

**CHEF:** I know that you can make something amazing. I am going to pick the best dish, so make yours memorable.

*(Chef exits. Lucy begins to set things out in the kitchen. After a few seconds, Carter walks in, and it is obvious he doesn't belong in a kitchen as he awkwardly fumbles with random set pieces in the kitchen.)*

**CARTER:** Hey, Lucy.

**LUCY:** Carter. What's going on? Why are you in the kitchen?

**CARTER:** I've been trying to find a minute to talk to you, but you've been crazy busy, as usual. I wanted to let you know I had an interesting conversation with your new boy toy yesterday.

**LUCY:** He isn't my "boy toy" and—excuse me?

**CARTER:** Whatever you say Luc—he came over looking for you.

**LUCY:** What did you say?

**CARTER:** I just warned him about what could happen if he...mistreated you.

**LUCY:** Carter!

**CARTER:** What?

**LUCY:** I like this guy. Don't ruin it.

**CARTER:** There is no way that I ruined anything

**LUCY:** What did you say?

**CARTER:** I gave him the big brother talk.

**LUCY:** How does this "big brother talk" go exactly?

**CARTER:** It's a secret.

**LUCY:** This isn't funny. What's your problem with him?

**CARTER:** I don't know.

**LUCY:** Don't know what? Tell me, what don't you know?

**CARTER:** I...I just don't think you can trust him.

**LUCY:** What gives you the right to decide that?

*(This is escalating into a full out fight now.)*

**CARTER:** I'm your brother!

**LUCY:** No. No you're not.

*(This hurts Carter's feelings.)*

**CARTER:** Lucy. You have spent the last two nights going on dates with this random guy and you have one of the most important events of your life this week. What are you doing?

**LUCY:** You're my friend. Not my family. You need to support me.

**CARTER:** Even when you're making the wrong call?

**LUCY:** That isn't your decision to make.

**CARTER:** I'm trying to help you.

**LUCY:** I don't need your help.

**CARTER:** Okay. Fine.

**LUCY:** Fine.

**CARTER:** Then I'm going to leave.

**LUCY:** Go for it.

**CARTER:** Fine. I will.

*(Long beat. Carter exits.)*

**LUCY:** Fine

*(Another long beat. Jimmy enters.)*

**JIMMY:** Lucy?

**LUCY:** Jimmy?

**JIMMY:** Hey, I thought I could find you here.

**LUCY:** *(Trying to hide the fact that she is sad:)* Well, yeah. My class is you know, here.

**JIMMY:** Yeah, I guess it is. You okay?

**LUCY:** Yeah, Carter and I just got into a fight. Moving to another topic...uh—I've had fun this week.

**JIMMY:** *(Guiltily:)* Yeah, me too.

**LUCY:** Is something wrong?

**JIMMY:** Don't worry about me. Are you sure you're okay?

*(Lucy looks down at the floor and then back at Jimmy.)*

**LUCY:** No.

**JIMMY:** Come here.

*(Lucy and Jimmy hug. Jimmy holds the back of her head in a comforting way. In this beat we see just how much Jimmy cares about her. Lucy pulls back.)*

Is now a good time for that second cooking lesson?

**LUCY:** *(Looks apprehensive and checks her phone but says anyway:)* It's a great time. But let me go grab some stuff from storage. It may take a minute—you okay here?

**JIMMY:** Of course. Take your time.

**LUCY:** Be back in a second.

*(Lucy exits in one direction as Katherine and The Girls enter from the other.)*

**KATHERINE:** Oh, Jimmy. What a surprise to see you here.

**JIMMY:** I need to talk to you.

**KATHERINE:** Of course. You can talk to me about anything.

**JIMMY:** I can't do this anymore.

**KATHERINE:** What do you mean you can't do this anymore?

*(Carter enters muttering different ways of saying "I'm sorry, Lucy.")*

We had a deal.

**JIMMY:** I know we have but—

**KATHERINE:** No buts. We had a deal. I don't care how repulsive she is, but just keep her out of this kitchen for the next few days. She is obviously underprepared now, and if—

**JIMMY:** Do you have to lie and cheat to get your way?

**KATHERINE:** *(Smugly:)* You know what? It's like I can hear how the conversation will go.

**JIMMY:** Katheri—

**KATHERINE:** *(To Carolyn:)* Oh hello, Father...I have some information that you might be interested in.

**JIMMY:** Really?

**CAROLYN:** *(In a low "man" voice, pretending to be Katherine's father:)* Yes, Katherine?

**KATHERINE:** Well. Do you know Jennifer Simmons?

**JIMMY:** (*Loud:*) Fine. (*Composing himself:*) Fine. Just don't—

**KATHERINE:** I won't tell anyone about your sister's tech skills, I promise. Just keep her busy. That's all I'm asking.

*(Katherine and The Girls exit.)*

**JIMMY:** Fine.

*(Jimmy exits. Carter is the only one left on stage. He takes a few steps towards the middle of the room.)*

**CARTER:** Oh, oh Lucy...

*(Blackout.)*

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**SCENE 10**

*(Carter is sitting on the couch. Lucy enters.)*

**LUCY:** *(Apologetically:)* Hey.

**CARTER:** Lucy...

**LUCY:** I'm sorr –

**CARTER:** I didn't want to be right. I didn't want to be I swear.

**LUCY:** What are you talking about?

**CARTER:** I went down to the kitchen a couple hours ago to find you.

*(Lucy sits down next to Carter.)*

**LUCY:** Oh, you probably just missed me. I was in the back grabbing some ingredients for Jimmy and me. Oh, Jimmy. What did you –

**CARTER:** I didn't do anything

**LUCY:** You sure? Do I need to un-scare him? Where's my phone? I'll just call him...

**CARTER:** He wasn't there alone.

**LUCY:** Who was he with? *(Sensing the serious tone:)* Who was he with?

**CARTER:** He was with Katherine.

**LUCY:** What? No, no, no... Really?

**CARTER:** I am so sorry.

**LUCY:** He's...with...with her?

**CARTER:** No, oh no no no he isn't cheating on you.

**LUCY:** *(Exhales.)* Then what was he doing?

**CARTER:** Luc, Katherine planned this whole thing out. She sent Jimmy to distract you from the cook-off.

**LUCY:** What?

**CARTER:** Jimmy was "sent" to ask you out and keep you busy so Katherine could come in and steal the internship from you.

**LUCY:** Why...how could...so he never...he never...what?

**CARTER:** Hey – it's his loss.

**LUCY:** I really thought that we –

**CARTER:** I know. *(Beat.)* I know.

*(Beat.)*

**LUCY:** This is the picture perfect "I told you so" moment. Go ahead.

**CARTER:** I didn't want to be right Luc, I really didn't.

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