

# WRONG END OF THE STICK

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A short dramedy by  
Trevor Suthers

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

KAREN, late teens to early twenties.

BETHANY, late teens to early twenties.

LEWIS, late teens to early twenties.

## SETTING

A cafe.

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*(A cafe. BETHANY sits at a table. KAREN brings drinks.)*

**KAREN:** So?

**BETHANY:** So?

**KAREN:** So?

**BETHANY:** Well, yes, he did ask me.

**KAREN:** Oh my God, no. And?

**BETHANY:** Well, you know...

**KAREN:** Oh my God, come on, out with it.

**BETHANY:** I said yes.

**KAREN:** Oh my God — you said what?

**BETHANY:** I said yes.

**KAREN:** You didn't.

**BETHANY:** I did.

**KAREN:** You couldn't have.

**BETHANY:** I did.

**KAREN:** But he's a complete idiot.

**BETHANY:** I know.

**KAREN:** He's like the biggest idiot you're ever likely to meet.

**BETHANY:** I know, I know.

**KAREN:** He's like the last word in idiocy.

**BETHANY:** I know. You don't have to tell me, I know.

**KAREN:** Then why?

**BETHANY:** I don't know, I just...

**KAREN:** Don't tell me you felt sorry for him.

**BETHANY:** I know...

**KAREN:** You did, you felt sorry for him.

**BETHANY:** Only a bit...

**KAREN:** You felt sorry for the biggest idiot in the world.

**BETHANY:** I know. I feel a right...jackass.

**KAREN:** ...Idiot, obviously.

**BETHANY:** It's just that...

**KAREN:** Go on.

**BETHANY:** It's just that, he had that look on his face, it's so hard to turn them down when they put that look on their face. I just knew if I said "no," he'd be all rejected and hurt and upset and everything.

**KAREN:** They all have that look on their face. They all have that look on their face when they're asking you out as if to say "if you don't go out with me I'll kill myself and it'll be all your fault" – they just want you to feel guilty.

**BETHANY:** It's really hard saying "no" sometimes because they always want to know why.

**KAREN:** You should have told him you're already seeing someone.

**BETHANY:** But I'm not. That'd have made it worse, lying.

**KAREN:** You could have just said "sorry, I don't fancy you," or "you're not my type."

**BETHANY:** But then they'd want to know what is your type and why they're not your type and you'd have to try and explain and it all gets awkward and complicated. I couldn't very well tell him he was an idiot, could I, to his face? Sometimes it's easier just to say yes and avoid all the hassle.

**KAREN:** Yes but now you've got to go out with him and then you'll have to go through all the aggravation of dumping him...

**BETHANY:** ...I know.

**KAREN:** ...which is even worse than trying to tell him that you never wanted to go out with him in the first place. I just can't believe you've allowed yourself to get stuck with such an idiot.

**BETHANY:** Well, you should talk.

**KAREN:** What?

**BETHANY:** I'm just saying.

**KAREN:** What do you mean I should talk?

**BETHANY:** Does the name "Nigel" ring any bells?

**KAREN:** Oh God, not him, why do you have to bring him up?

**BETHANY:** I'm just saying, that's all.

**KAREN:** You're saying "Nigel's" an idiot.

**BETHANY:** Well, you said it.

**KAREN:** I know he's an idiot, but in terms of degrees of idiocy, he's nowhere near as idiotic as the idiot you're talking about. I mean, be fair, Nigel, when you first meet him, it isn't obvious he's an idiot, it's only when you get to know him. But as for...well, he's got "idiot" written all over him—in bold and underlined.

**BETHANY:** I know. (*CELL PHONE RINGS, Bethany answers:*) Oh my God, it's him. He wants to know where I am.

**KAREN:** Don't tell him.

**BETHANY:** I'm in the er...I'm on the er...I'm at the er...

**KAREN:** (*Mouths:*) Bath...bus...shops.

**BETHANY:** Coffee shop. Oh, yeah, that's right – Café Latte. He's on his way. He says he's only round the corner. I bet he saw us come in. I bet he's stalking me. Look, when he comes, could you do me a huge, huge favour...

**KAREN:** No.

**BETHANY:** Come on, please.

**KAREN:** No. No way.

**BETHANY:** All you have to do is just tell him.

**KAREN:** No. Tell him yourself.

**BETHANY:** I'll do anything for you – honest.

**KAREN:** No.

**BETHANY:** I'll be your bestest, bestest friend forever.

**KAREN:** No.

**BETHANY:** Oh please, please, please, please, he'll be here any second.

**KAREN:** No.

**BETHANY:** Oh my God, I can see him, he's coming in. I'm nipping to the loo – don't let me down.

*(Enter LEWIS.)*

**LEWIS:** Hiya Karen. Was that Bethany?

**KAREN:** Yes, she's just popped to the Ladies.

**LEWIS:** Can I get you anything?

**KAREN:** No, I'm fine.

**LEWIS:** I just needed to have a quick word with Bethany.



**KAREN:** I'll just go and tell her you're...

**LEWIS:** No, no, stay. In fact... (*Looks at his watch:*) I'm a bit pushed for time actually. You might be able to do me a bit of a favour, only, I'm a bit worried about Bethany. We had a sort of a conversation earlier, only I'm kind of worried she might have got the wrong end of the stick.

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