

Valerie

By

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Gr8 Expectations

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EXT. PARK BENCH - DAY

GEORGE(25) - ethnically ambiguous millennial. Somehow sensitive and insensitive at the same time, sits in the park enjoying some gelato with his best friend BART(24). Bart carries a presence that is both enticing and unsettling. Bart rides life to his own beat while George hasn't quite figured out that he hasn't figured out his life yet.

BART

Aw, look at that dog. He's so handsome.

GEORGE

Do you Tinder?

BART

No, my dude. I start my own fires.

GEORGE

Right, so I am not good at online dating. You know this. I've gotten like 3 matches and they're all bots.

BART

(feigned enthusiasm)

Whaaaat.

GEORGE

Yeah, but my phone goes off, and I'm like. "Butt soft! What swipe through yonder Tinder breaks?"

BART

Oh wow.

GEORGE

Yeah and we corresponded for more than two exchanges!

BART

Shut up.

GEORGE

Yeah yeah we, um, we went on a day date too.

BART

Aw, no way.

(CONTINUED)

George stands up and tosses his gelato in the garbage. He seamlessly walks into the "story" strolling side by side with his cute Tinder date. VALERIE(21) is in the middle of telling a story. She's enthusiastic, attractive, and nice but there's nothing authentic about this date.

VALERIE

-And it was so crazy because like we were like sliding down the sand dunes so fast and we couldn't hold onto anything!

GEORGE

(over eager)

HAHAHA, wow. You must have been like SO scared.

They pass Bart dressed as a caricature artist.

BART

She sounds great.

GEORGE

(talking to Bart)

Yeah! Yeah. But also...just. Just hold on.

So where do you live?

VALERIE

Morningside! I'm a senior at Columbia.

Bart passes by dressed as a jogger.

BART

She lives blocks away from you AND she hasn't had her dreams crushed by reality yet, my dude!

GEORGE

NO, I KNOW! I know...

You should probably know I'm crazy about dogs.

VALERIE

Oh my god, like me too!

GEORGE

Like I have to point them out when I see them. Dog.

(CONTINUED)

They walk up to a dog and start petting him. The dog's owner is revealed to be Bart.

BART

Did you go for a kiss? Sometimes you don't know unt-

GEORGE

Of course I went in for a friggin kiss, Bart. I'm so desperate. So we're making out right?

BART

(confused)

Where?

George points to a nearby bench. He and Valerie are gently kissing.

GEORGE

Right thurr.

Bart dressed as a homeless guy sits behind George on the bench and whispers in his ear.

BART

Was it...was it good?

GEORGE

(still kissing her)

Listen. It wasn't bad, you know? It just wasn't. I wasn't like oh my god this incredible.

BART

That's pretty crucial.

GEORGE

IT'S VERY CRUCIAL! It's like, what we're gonna be doing in the relationship. I don't want the first one to be mediocre!

Valerie pulls away.

VALERIE

Hey, listen. This was...amazing. I gotta get going, but I'll see you soon?

GEORGE

For sure, for sure.

(CONTINUED)

VALERIE

Ok...bye!

GEORGE

Bye bye!

BART

I don't know, she seems super nice.

George's phone buzzes. A text bubble appears above his phone. It reads, "Hi :)" George reads it and puts his phone back in his pocket.

GEORGE

She just texted me again.

BART

You gonna respond?

GEORGE

Nah, I'm ghosting her.

END.

CREDITS SCENE.

Valerie walks through the park. She calls her friend.

VALERIE

Hi! Yeah, it was fun. He's great and all, just. He's just not a good kisser. I KNOW!