

# 5 Dates

by

Jayna Witcher

PO Box 551

North Falmouth, MA 02556

508.566.9906

Originally Written for  
Screenwriting, Yale University  
Professor Marc Lapadula

Copyright June 2008

EXT. BROWNSTONE APARTMENT - MORNING

Groggy summer day in Boston, MA. An alarm blares.

INT. HAILEY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

HAILEY, mid 20s, attractive, slams down on the snooze. The bedroom is sparse except for an unfinished painting and a bulletin board with pictures of people and Napa Valley.

INT. HAILEY'S LIVING/DINING ROOM - MORNING

Montage of Hailey eating Trix cereal with chocolate syrup on 4 separate mornings in her living/dining room (signified by 4 different colored shirts underneath her blazer) as her ROOMMATE, each time with a different hair color, escorts someone out the door (MAN #1, MAN #2, WOMAN #1, and TRANSVESTITE)

INT. HAILEY'S OFFICE - MORNING

Hailey enters work in her manila suit and a pink shirt. Hailey walks past the cubicle of PAULLETTE, late 30s, who's caked in makeup and painting her nails in her cubicle.

HAILEY  
Morning, Paulette.

PAULLETTE  
Mornin'.

INT. HAILEY'S OFFICE - NEXT MORNING

Hailey, in her manila suit and a light blue shirt, walks past Paulette's cubicle as she nears the cubicle of CARL, late 20s, engrossed in his computer's video game, wearing dirty khakis and an old, untucked shirt covering his protruding beer belly.

HAILEY  
Hey, Carl.

Carl doesn't look up.

CARL  
Hey, Hail.

INT. HAILEY'S OFFICE - NEXT MORNING

Hailey, wearing a red shirt under her blazer, walks past Carl's cubicle and into her own. A bulletin board with art and pictures of her roommate, family, and Napa Valley hide behind the piles of paper surrounding her. She picks up a pile and begins data entry.

INT. THE BOSTON T - 5:15PM

Hailey, miserable, dressed in her manila blazer with a lime green shirt, sits by SWEATY MEN, TIRED WOMEN, and LOUD KIDS.

INT. HAILEY'S LIVING/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Hailey eats dinner alone in front of the TV.

INT. HAILEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Hailey puts down her art magazine and turns out the lights.

INT. HAILEY'S LIVING/DINING ROOM - MORNING

Hailey, dressed in a orange shirt and blazer, pours her usual cereal. Her now purple-haired Roommate kisses MAN #3 goodbye.

MAN #3

Abhaydatta- right? Freaky name,  
kinky girl!

MAN #3 leaves as the Roommate sits down with Hailey.

HAILEY

Abhaydatta- huh?

ROOMMATE

You know it. Means fearless son in  
Sanskrit.

HAILEY

So, what's it gonna be today?

ROOMMATE

I'm feelin' Aubree. German for  
Elfin King. Pretty legit.

Hailey nods in agreement as her Roommate gets up and rounds the corner into the kitchen.

HAILEY  
 (loudly)  
 Roomsie, I'm sick of my life.

ROOMMATE [O.S.]  
 Huh?

HAILEY  
 I need a change. You know, I'm bored. I'm stuck in this life I've made for myself and I hate it. I want to be an artist. I want to live in wine country. And God damn it, I want a boyfriend!! And the fact that my mom keeps reminding me---

Roommate comes back into the living room stuffing her mouth with a huge bowl of tofu and cuts Hailey off.

ROOMMATE  
 What you need, Hay-balls, is The Five Date Treatment.

HAILEY  
 What? No- I'm just complaining. Plus the last time I took one of your suggestions my hair was the color of the Kool-Aid Man.

ROOMMATE  
 I'm serious. It works. I saw it on Dr. Phil or something.

Hailey looks at her Roommate with a questionable glance.

ROOMMATE  
 You're doing this whether you want to or not. I'm done with you sitting around, wearing that same stupid suit, eating the same whatever it is you eat, and being miserable and alone. You got nothing to lose.

HAILEY  
 Alright. Amuse me. What is it?

ROOMMATE  
 It's simple. Oprah-

HAILEY  
 You mean Dr. Phil.

ROOMMATE

Whoever, doesn't matter, says you go on 5 different dates; the blind date, the family dinner, the internet setup, and last but not least, speed dating! Yeah, man!

HAILEY

That's 4, what about the 5th one?

ROOMMATE

Huh, I forget. I guess if you've gone through that many men already, you're hopeless... And screwed.

Hailey pauses to think.

HAILEY

Alright, I'll try it.

ROOMMATE

Rock on! First up, blind date. And I have just the person for you!

HAILEY

Oh, no. No. Not that I don't trust your judgment in men... or women for that matter... I'll just ask---

Her Roommate gets up and heads back into the kitchen.

ROOMMATE

No, no, no. It's my pleasure. I'll tell you what, I'll make it a double date so I can be there. Tomorrow, Chico's, 8pm. Done and done, my friend.

Hailey stays seated with a worried look on her face.

INT. CHICO'S RESTURANT - 8PM

Hailey, in her manila blazer, and the Roommate walk into Chico's, a tiny bohemian restaurant where they meet BARB, late 20s, rocker chick and DAN, late 20s, dressed-to-impress.

ROOMMATE

Hey guys! What's shakin'?  
I'd like you two to meet Hailey.  
Hailey this is Dan.

Dan shakes Hailey's hand as Hailey blushes.

ROOMMATE  
And Hailey, this is Barb!

HAILEY  
Hi, nice to meet you!

Barb looks Hailey up and down.

BARB  
Damnnn.

The Roommate and Dan sit across from each other and Hailey quickly realizes what's happening. Hailey grabs the Roommate's arm.

HAILEY  
Um, can I talk to you for a minute?

Hailey drags the Roommate away from the table.

INT. CHICO'S BATHROOM - SAME NIGHT

Hailey and the Roommate stand cramped in a small bathroom.

HAILEY  
What, what were you thinking?!

ROOMMATE  
I thought you wanted a change?!

HAILEY  
Yeah- but I was thinking more along the lines of BOYFRIEND, Rooms, not sketchy rocker chick!

ROOMMATE  
Give her a chance, I swear---

HAILEY  
No, no, no, no, no. You never told me this stupid 5 Date "Treatment" Plan you have me on would entail BARB looking me up and down!

ROOMMATE  
But Judge Judy said diversity is-

HAILEY  
Oh, screw Judge Judy and Oprah and Dr. What's-his-face!  
(MORE)

HAILEY (CONT'D)

Listen, I'll sit the rest of dinner with you, but I'm going straight home afterwards. STRAIGHT home. STRAIGHT Rooms, STRAIGHT.

INT. CHICO'S RESTURANT - A LITTLE LATER

Hailey smiles and coyly sits back down at the table. The Roommate follows behind her. Barb winks at Hailey.

BARB

Missed you, girl.

INT. HAILEY'S LIVING/DINING ROOM - MORNING

Hailey, with her usual cereal, forces away the phone her Roommate shoves on her.

HAILEY

(whispering)

No, listen, please, anyone but my mother.

The roommate forces the phone in Hailey's hand.

HAILEY

Oh, hi mom!

MOM (FILTERED)

Darling! Why did you never call me back? I called you 6 times yesterday!

HAILEY

Oh, um, sorry mom. Listen, I was wondering, um, if...

Hailey pauses and looks desperately at her Roommate who is mouthing "Come on" as she coaxes Hailey.

HAILEY

...if, ah, if you would set me up with someone.

Hailey winces. The Roommate still coaxes Hailey on.

MOM [FILTERED]

Oh Darling! Yes, oh this is perfect! Oh yes, honey! Finally!

HAILEY

So is this weekend ok?

MOM [FILTERED]  
 Oh darling! Yes! Oh and I have  
 just the man for you!

HAILEY  
 I've heard that one before...

MOM [FILTERED]  
 What darling?

HAILEY  
 Nothing, mom. See you Friday.

MOM [FILTERED]  
 Oh sweetie! Yes, and wear that  
 lit---

HAILEY  
 (rushed)  
 Alright, thanks, mom. Bye.

Hailey hangs up the phone and shoots her Roommate a dirty,  
 but desperate look.

HAILEY  
 Happy now?

The Roommate swaggers coolly into the kitchen.

ROOMMATE  
 Yep.

INT. MOM'S IMPECABLE DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Hailey walks into her parent's spotless dark mahogany dining  
 room to see her brace-face sister CARRY, 15, Hailey's well-  
 kept dad MARVIN, late 50s, uptight MOTHER, mid 50s, and  
 GERALD, early 30s, cordial, tall, handsome.

HAILEY  
 Hello?

MOM runs up and hugs Hailey. Hailey is uncomfortable.

MOM  
 Oh darling! Oh, you look  
 wonderful! Marv, doesn't your  
 daughter look gorgeous?!

Hailey looks at her father and a warm smile comes over her  
 face. Her father gives her a kiss on the cheek.

HAILEY

Hi Dad!

MOM

I was always telling her to go on a diet. But you've actually gained weight, haven't you? Must be that shirt. Honey, do you ever wear that shirt with the cats I got you? Oh doesn't matter. Come, come and meet this darling over here!

Mom drags Hailey over to handsome Gerald.

MOM

Honey, this is Gerald. Gerald this is Hailey!

Hailey and Gerald shake hands.

GERALD

Hi, Hailey! It's great to finally meet you!

HAILEY

Oh, thanks. It's ni---

MOM

Hailey, Gerald works in I-banking! Oh, it must be so nice to be young, handsome, and WEALTHY! I bet you're a millionaire! Just think, my daughter could be a MILLIONARE!

INT. MOM'S IMPECABLE DINING ROOM - HALF HOUR LATER

The family finishes their dinner and enjoy Gerald's company.

GERALD

... And to top it all off, he grabs the Darth Vader custome and light saber and makes a run for it! In the middle of 5th Avenue!

The entire family begins to laugh hysterically.

MOM

Oh Gerald! Hahaha! Hailey, isn't he perfect!

Mom grabs a few dishes, starts humming "Here Comes the Bride" and obviously pushes Marvin and Carry out of the room.

GERALD  
 (in a perfect Yoda voice)  
 Future I see, marry we will!

HAILEY  
 Oh, haha. You're, ah, you're  
 really good at that... It's  
 actually kind of creepy...

GERALD  
 Star Wars my life, my force it is.  
 Star Wars my--- LOVE--- it is.

HAILEY  
 Right...

INT. HAILEY'S LIVING/DINING ROOM - MORNING

Hailey, eating her usual cereal, searches through  
 YoungandDesperate.com. The Roommate, with platinum blond  
 hair, escorts a slightly dishevelled WOMAN #3 out the door.

WOMAN #3  
 Let's do this again, Laquisha.

The Roommate smiles and closes the door. She walks over to  
 Hailey and looks over her shoulder at the computer screen.

HAILEY  
 Could they have named the sight  
 anything worse?  
 YoungandDesperate.com- Like I need  
 the reminder.

ROOMMATE  
 (in a Yoda voice)  
 Worse it could be.

Hailey shoots her Roommate a look.

ROOMMATE  
 Alright, alright, I'm sorry. I'm  
 serious though- ever been on 'OLD  
 and Desperate.com?' One word---  
 don't. Hey, 'La Dominatrix' is hot!

HAILEY  
 Straight, Rooms, straight.

ROOMMATE  
 Yeah, yeah. Oh, 'Mate in '08' is  
 perfect! Tall, dark, and handsome.  
 Look--- he hates Bush, too!  
 (MORE)

ROOMMATE (CONT'D)

My kind of man! Likes kids, long walks on the beach, yadda, yadda, yadda.

The Roommate clicks "Book Date" on the website.

HAILEY

Wait! We haven't even seen the second page of available guys!

ROOMMATE

Hayballs, we're on the fast track here, alright! Speed, speed, speed!

An icon immediately pops up informing Hailey to meet 'Mate in '08' tomorrow at 7pm at Fanuel Hall. Hailey looks at her roommate worried, her Roommate looks back enthusiastically.

EXT. FANUEL HALL - 7 PM

Hailey timidly approaches MAN #4 who has his back toward her.

HAILEY

Um, excuse me, are you, 'Mate in '08'?

MAN #4, rose in hand, turns around, only to reveal it's Carl, Hailey's not so "tall, dark, and handsome" co-worker.

CARL

Hey, hey... HAILEY?!

HAILEY

Carl?! What!... You... You hate long walks!... And the water!

CARL

(startled)

Wow, um, wow. This, this is... awkward. Well, ah, here you go.

Carl quickly hands Hailey his rose.

INT. HAILEY'S LIVING/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Hailey rushes to get ready for speed dating. Her roommate watches TV with WOMAN #2.

HAILEY

I mean, I really don't know how many more bad dates I can handle.  
(MORE)

HAILEY (CONT'D)  
Not that listening to Carl talk  
about Auto Theives Whatever---

ROOMMATE  
Grand Theft Auto?

HAILEY  
Yeah, sure, for three hours isn't  
my idea of a great night--- Are  
you even listening to me?

ROOMMATE  
What? Yeah, sorry. Look, its speed  
dating. How bad can it be?

HAILEY  
(under her breath, sad)  
I just don't know how much more I  
can take... of everything.

Hailey, aggravated, leaves in a crazed rush.

WOMAN #2  
Wow Karen, your roommate---

ROOMMATE  
Is freakin' nuts? I know. Try  
living with her.

INT. LONG HALL SET UP FOR SPEEDDATING - NIGHT

Hailey sits down in a long, characterless hall with a big  
glass of red wine next to her. She takes a big sip. MAN #5,  
mid 30s, sits down across from her. He's 5'2'', looks like  
he's 12, tries to hide this fact with his bright red goatee.

MAN #5  
Hey, I'm Simon. Work in  
technology. Let's just call this a  
done deal. My parent's apartment  
is 3 blocks away.

Hailey takes another big sip of wine. The bell rings. MAN  
#6, mid 40s, sits down across from her. He's big, black, has  
a Du-Rag, grill, and covered in bling. He looks at her and  
licks his lips. Hailey takes another big sip of wine.

INT. LONG HALL SET UP FOR SPEEDDATING - LATER THAT NIGHT

Hailey, obviously tipsy, keeps sipping wine. A GUIDO, mid  
20s, sits across from her.

Wearing a white tank top, he has bulging muscles, fake tan, and gelled ice-tipped hair. The Guido looks her up and down.

GUIDO

Yummy.

Hailey gulps more wine.

INT. LONG HALL SET UP FOR SPEEDDATING - LATER THAT NIGHT

Hailey, drunk with red teeth, sits across from MAN #6, late 80s, who obviously aspires to be Hugh Hefner in look and dress. Hailey just laughs hysterically.

INT. HAILEY'S LIVING/DINING ROOM - LATER SAME NIGHT

Hailey's roommate reads the magazine "The Nation". The door swings open and Hailey, drunk, falls through the door and starts laughing.

ROOMMATE

Didn't go as planned, did it?

HAILEY

Hahaha, ohhh noooo. It was like the 'Sleeze 'R Us' of speed dating!

Hailey, wobbling around, sits next to her Roommate.

HAILEY

Oh man. They were bad. Bad, BAD!  
Damn, and that was the 4th date!  
Well, Roomsie, looks like I am  
SCREWED!

Hailey now concentrates and talks more seriously.

HAILEY

What the hell, man? Why can't I change? I mean, look at you- you change your hair, your men, your women, god, even your name! I can't even find a date! It's like I'm stuck in this 2 by 4 box I've made for myself!

ROOMMATE

It's OK, Hails. Yeah know, we all fight our battles.

HAILEY

I'm just scared, or something. It's like I'm scared of getting what I want, of, of leaving the only things I know. I'm scared of myself. And I let myself believe that finding a guy would change my life. I really just need to find myself.

Hailey smiles and puts her head on her Roommate's shoulder.

ROOMMATE

Well, it looks like the plan worked.

HAILEY

Huh?

ROOMMATE

You don't think I actually watch that Dr. Phil crap, do you? Come on! Nope, I made that whole thing up on my own. Pretty damn proud of myself. And look, it got you to FINALLY realize what's up!

HAILEY

You are crazy... And brilliant...

Hailey takes her head off of her Roommate's shoulder.

HAILEY

You know, I gotta leave this place.

ROOMMATE

I know.

EXT. CURB OUTSIDE BROWNSTONE APARTMENT - MID DAY

Hailey stands next to a UHaul, surrounded by her family, past dates, and her Roommate. Gerald wears a suit and Star-Wars tie and plays with a poster-holder-turned-light-saber by himself. The Guido effortlessly, and carelessly, throws boxes into the UHaul, while Carl struggles with lamp shades. Barb comforts Hailey's sobbing, and now frightened, Mother.

Hailey hugs everyone goodbye.

GERALD

May the force be with you.

HAILEY  
Um, you too, bud.

She pats Gerald on the shoulder and turns to her Roommate.

HAILEY  
Well, I gotta say, I'm glad the dates were good for something...

ROOMMATE  
Yeah, had to invite them. You know, complete the circle.

HAILEY  
You sure you don't want to come?

ROOMMATE  
Yeah. For once, I've decided not to change. My own little 'Treatment Plan' if you will.

HAILEY  
I'm really going to miss you, Rooms.

ROOMMATE  
Goes both ways, kiddo. Now leave before I get teary eyed.

Hailey climbs into the UHual and pulls out.

INT. UHUAL ON THE HIGHWAY - MID DAY

Hailey, happy, alone, puts on the radio. Tom Petty's "Free Falling" comes on. Hailey starts singing loudly.

EXT. PORCH OVERLOOKING NAPA VALLEY - MORNING

Hailey eats her Trix and chocolate cereal while standing at the edge of her porch. She has a painting-in-progress that looks just like the valley in front of her, as well that the pictures on her bulletin board in her old bedroom. Hailey puts down her cereal, stretches her arms out like she's flying, wind in her hair, closes her eyes, and smiles.

INT. SHOPPING MARKET - MID DAY

Hailey walks happily down aisle #5, the cereal aisle, with a basket of chocolate syrup as she hums "Free Falling".

PETE, late 20s, tall, blond, and built, walks towards her, wearing a worn-out Tom Petty Tour t-shirt and jeans. Hailey stops humming as the two approach the lone box of Trix on the bottom shelf. The two reach down and grab the box at the same time. Both smile and laugh lightly.

PETE

Oh, sorry. Here. It's all you!

As he hands her the cereal, Hailey notices that Pete's basket contains a lettuce head and 3 chocolate syrup bottles.

HAILEY

Thanks, but embarrassingly enough,  
I have 3 more boxes at home!

PETE

Well, I'm glad to hear people in  
the West Coast eat this stuff. You  
see, I just moved from Maryland and  
I thought people only eat tofu and  
carrots over here. So, ah, don't  
tell anyone I drizzle chocolate  
syrup on my Trix every morning!

HAILEY

That's crazy! I do the same thing!

Hailey grabs her chocolate syrup from her basket. Both beam.

PETE

I'm Pete, by they way.

HAILEY

Hailey. Nice to meet you!

The two warmly shake hands and hold eye contact.

FADE OUT