

FIRST DATE

EXT. BALMY ALLEY / INT. CAR - DAY

ALICE (55) sits in a used Hyundai with her son, OLIVER (17).

ALICE
How do you know this girl?

OLIVER
We do group projects in Bio.

ALICE
I hope she's not doing all the work,
while you take the credit.

OLIVER
It's the opposite. I do all the work,
and she takes the credit... Ruby's a
total sociopath. There's no remorse,
and no regard for human life... She's
the kinda girl who'll kiss you under
the bleachers, as long as you promise
not to tell anyone about it.

EXT. BALMY ALLEY / INT. CAR - DAY

LUCAS (60) waits in a Ferrari with his daughter, RUBY (17).

LUCAS
So you and Oliver are friends?

RUBY
I don't know if we're "friends,"
per se...but we do have a shorthand.
It's a healthy working relationship,
even after I knocked over the Bunsen
Burner and set his cat shirt on fire.

(beat)
Marin offered him a full ride last
year. He's really good at baseball.
I guess if you can hit a rock with
a stick, the elite private schools
value that sort of thing. And he's
from New York, too, so we have that
in common... His grandparents are
from the Bay, so he and his mom take
care of them. They don't even have a
couch yet, and they live in a studio,
so Oliver sleeps on the floor.

LUCAS
Jesus. He told you that?

RUBY
He doesn't have to. Word travels fast.

INTERCUT: HYUNDAI AND FERRARI

ALICE (to Oliver)
Don't keep her waiting. Those Marin girls don't grow on trees.

OLIVER
I know. They just smoke them.

RUBY (to Lucas)
I want you to meet him.

LUCAS
No. He prolly expects me to be a *real* dad who threatens him in case he gets handsy with you. I'll end up making things awkward by giving him a weak handshake. It happens at work a lot.

RUBY
Good point. Then you'll make it even more awkward by asking him to do the handshake over again.

ALICE (to Oliver)
Get after it. It's go time.

OLIVER
I need some marching orders.

ALICE
Hm... In private, tell the waiter it's her birthday. They'll come out and sing "Happy Birthday," then give her a cupcake with a candle on it.

OLIVER
I'm not too comfortable around Ruby when there's an open flame in play... This is also my nicest outfit; I need to get another job so I can double up.

ALICE
You have a job. You have two.

OLIVER
I have one. McDonald's fired me.

ALICE
What? Why?

OLIVER
I was stealing hamburgers.
(MORE)

OLIVER
They caught me eating them in the bathroom... I forgot to lock the door.

ALICE
You stole hamburgers? From McDonald's?

OLIVER
Do you know Ronald McDonald?

ALICE
Obviously. He's terrifying.

OLIVER
Especially the newer versions they've introduced over the years. Anyway, Ron has a rival who cosplays as a prisoner. You know him as the Hamburglar.

ALICE
I know who the Hamburglar is.

OLIVER
I know you know. That's why I said, "You know him as the Hamburglar." And believe me, McDonald's corporate? They take hamburger theft seriously. They do inventory at night/roll call in the morning, and if even a single hamburger isn't present and accounted for? They get so pressed about it.

ALICE
You can't blame them.

OLIVER
And I don't. They didn't even try to embarrass me in front of everyone by confiscating my ID and escorting me from the building. My manager was just like, "Yo. Fuck outta here, bro."

EXT. BALMY ALLEY - DAY

The two meet up amid walls of graffiti. Oliver holds flowers.

OLIVER
You showed up.

RUBY
Looks that way.

Impishly, Ruby crooks a finger. Oliver gives her the flowers.

OLIVER

They're called Creeping Buttercups.
"Creeping Buttercup" reminds me of
you, which is why I like them.

RUBY

... They're beautiful.

OLIVER

They're weeds. They were on side of
the road. Destroying ecosystems and
getting pounded by bees. Tough life.

RUBY

I can't believe you got me flowers.

OLIVER

You told me to.

RUBY

I was just being sassy. I didn't
expect you to actually get them.

OLIVER

I know. That's exactly why I did.

They look over each other's shoulders.

RUBY

I assume they're still there.

OLIVER

Your dad's still there. Is my mom?

RUBY

Yeah. I wanted you to meet my dad,
but he wasn't into it.

OLIVER

Is it because he drives a Ferrari,
and my mom drives a used Hyundai?

RUBY

No, it's because you're a Mets fan.
Also, he's got this limp dick of a
handshake he's insecure about.

(beat)

That's a lot of ink you've got
written on your hands there, buddy.

OLIVER

Eh. It's nothing.

RUBY
It's nothing.

OLIVER
It's nothing.

RUBY
It's definitely something.

EXT. HAIGHT-ASHBURY - DAY

The home of the Flower Power movement. Ruby and Oliver walk.

RUBY
Beth said you're as funny as I am.
I don't believe it. Make me laugh,
because you're not funny in Bio.

OLIVER
Huh. Is that all guys are good for?
That's like a dude saying, "Look
pretty for me, and don't talk much."

They pass a HOMELESS MAN. Ruby gives him the flowers and \$1.

HOMELESS MAN
I like that outfit, baby.

Ruby smiles.

HOMELESS MAN
I was talking to your boy.

OLIVER
How's that for a joke? But I got one.
So... I've always thought the letter
"Q" is the most high-maintenance letter
in the alphabet. When you write it in
formal cursive, it's super demanding.
Worse, "Q" always needs to be followed
by the letter "U." No other letter in
the alphabet needs that level of hand-
holding. It's like when I hang out with
my friend Karen. There are intimate
details about my life that I feel
comfortable sharing with Karen. But
every time we hang out, she brings her
friend Mary around. And it's like,
"Why does Mary always need to be here?
Isn't there an after school club she
can join? Doesn't she ever go shopping
with her mom at Sephora?"

RUBY

Now I really wanna know what's on your hands, because it definitely wasn't that awful attempt at humor.

OLIVER

New topic. Do you have any pets?

RUBY

A python and a boa... There's only one type of girl that's into snakes.

OLIVER

What type of girl?

RUBY

Pretty ones. Not to toot my own horn.

OLIVER

Toot away. Sometimes there's no point in being humble. What's that saying? Humility is the most noble vanity?

RUBY

Seriously, though. Girls into snakes are always hot. Not that I'm hot, I'm cute. "Approachable beauty." Boys like me because they think other guys won't notice me. As if a solid "7" doesn't get to feed at the trough with the racehorses. Um, the other side of the coin is that there are only two types of guys who like snakes. They're way too cool, or way too weird. No middle ground. Way too cool, or eating paste.

OLIVER

Beth said I was funnier? The "7" thing was clever.

RUBY

It was moderately amusing. But just think: I didn't need to write it on my hands and use them as a cheat sheet.

OLIVER

Fair enough. And by the way, don't sell yourself short. You're better than a solid "7." You're more like a poor man's "8."

Ruby stops. Oliver keeps walking. He soon stops, turns around.

OLIVER
Do you drink?

RUBY
Not when I'm on the job.

INT. MARIANNE'S - DAY

A BARTENDER pours a Fiery Empress. Oliver drinks, then coughs.

RUBY
I don't know if you can handle that.

OLIVER
Me neither. I've never drank before.

Ruby notices a WOMAN and a MAN in their 40's.

RUBY
Look at those two. They're totally
on a Tinder date.

OLIVER
How do you know it's not...Bumble?

RUBY
She doesn't look like she'd like the
guys on Tinder...and he doesn't look
like he'd like the girls on Bumble.

OLIVER
I wouldn't know.

RUBY
Neither would I. Those apps are meant
for old people who are like...27.

OLIVER
But how do you know they're on a date?

RUBY
Look at their body language. They're
strangers. They're smiling too much.
Look at us; we're not smiling at all.
We know each other. We work together.
Why would we be smiling?

OLIVER
It must be tough for girls to date
with all the creepy guys out there.

RUBY
In certain states you can obviously
buy a gun without a background check.

(MORE)

RUBY

But I think guys should have to submit to a background check before they're allowed to start dating. They should need a permit, then a license. They should have to wait hours at the DMV.

OLIVER

There should be a written test.

RUBY

Exactly. I'm glad you're on the right side of history here... Then again, in class you're nice, but in the wild? You might be a wolf in sheep's clothing.

OLIVER

I think it's the opposite. I would say I'm a sheep in wolf's clothing.

(beat)

Do you plan to go back to New York?

RUBY

I don't know. It'd be like taking a lion that's been loved and pampered in captivity, being tended to in an animal sanctuary by conservationists. So you're taking that lion out of sunny California, reintroducing her back into the wild jungle that's New York, and then expecting that she'll know how to hunt. That's a problem, cuz I don't remember how to hunt.

OLIVER

Speaking of hunting... Do you fish?

EXT. LAKE CHABOT MARINA & CAFÉ - DAY

A DECKHAND helps Oliver and Ruby into an electric motor boat.

Holding Deckhand's literal hand as he embarks, Oliver loses balance and almost falls into the water. The boat tips a bit.

EXT. LAKE CHABOT - DAY

Ruby and Oliver fish in silence. Sunshine skips on the water.

OLIVER

We need to stop telling people that there are plenty of fish in the sea. Because that's not true anymore, literally or figuratively.

RUBY

Yeah. My mom says that men are like apartments. As soon as a decent one is on the market? They get snatched up and taken off the market. And it probably holds true for high school, too. People pick their teammates as early as freshman or sophomore year. Then come prom season it's one less person out there for the rest of us. And if you're in college, you could be dating someone as a senior, then up marrying them. The when the rest of us are 25/30, there's nobody left. So you wake up one day, only to find that you're stuck on a boat with your high school lab partner from 30 years ago. Yikes. talk about a watery grave.

OLIVER

... Be still my beating heart.

Ruby reels in a fish. She whips it at Oliver. Soon...

OLIVER

I'm so hungry. What are you in the mood for? I made some reservations.

RUBY

I should've done some research, too. I don't want you doing all the work.

OLIVER

Except in Bio.

RUBY

Except in Bio... I want to know what it says on your hands.

OLIVER

And I want to know what you want to eat. What's your favorite food?

RUBY

To be honest, it's McDonald's fries.

OLIVER

I was hoping you might not say that.

Ruby releases her fish. It swims away.

OLIVER

What do you like on your fries?
Ketchup, barbecue, or sweet-and-sour?

RUBY

That's like picking a favorite child.
I couldn't go on without any of them.

OLIVER

All three. Wow. My mom warned me
about girls like you... But no
McDonald's. I want us to have fun.

RUBY

You're with me. You are having fun.

Without breaking eye contact, she casts her line into the lake.

EXT. FISHERMAN'S WHARF - DAY

Ruby and Oliver stroll, appreciating local artists and dancers.

OLIVER

That was really nice of you to give
that homeless guy money. But I wish
you didn't give him my flowers.

RUBY

They were my flowers, pendejo. And
don't stress about it. You'll have
plenty of time to pick me more in
time for class tomorrow.

INT. ARCADE - DAY

The two play Skee-Ball, rolling the brown balls into rings.

OLIVER

What do you want do in college?

RUBY

Engineering during the day, singing
at night. Practical and impractical.

OLIVER

Yeah, I'm not going to a traditional
school. I thought about going to USC
to play baseball, but I don't want to
get up at five a.m. for the next four
years... I already got my appointment
at the Air Force Academy.

RUBY

That's cool. You do realize, though,
that you'll probably have to get up
just as early as an Air Force cadet.

Oliver's facial expression says, "I had not thought of that."

RUBY

Also, there aren't any girls there.

Oliver's facial expression: "I didn't think of that, either."

RUBY

I should join the Air Force. I think I'd be a better Forcer than you'd be.

OLIVER

Do you get scared about not going anywhere with the singing?

RUBY

Of course. I obsess over it. At the same time, we all have this internal monologue that runs through our heads. And most of it's not filled with positive thoughts. It's usually this constant stream of stress and anxiety.

(beat)

But something clicked one night. Basically, when people are on their deathbed, they never say, "I wish I was a singer with more vocal range." "I wish was a funnier stand-up." But in terms of what people do say to themselves? They say, "I wish I had sent my demo to that record company." "I wish I had the guts to get on stage and just try my hand at stand-up..." I realized one night that no one laments their lack of talent. They regret not having the courage to just throw their hat in the ring. It's all about trying.

Oliver rolls a ball into the 100 point ring. Tickets fly out.

OLIVER

Where do you want to go, by the way?

RUBY

I applied early decision to Stanford.

OLIVER

Wow. Do you have a safety school?

RUBY

... Harvard. Though I'm not too keen on going to school with a boatload of fuckboys who go to Harvard. You can't learn anything from smart people.

She rolls a ball at the circles. Falls short of the 50 ring.

EXT. GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE - DAY

Ruby and Oliver glide on rented bikes. Soon, Ruby begins to accelerate like a Tour de France pro. She blows past Oliver.

EXT. TOY STORE - DAY

The pair eye the shelves. Home in on remote-controlled cars.

EXT. SKATE PARK - DAY

Ruby pilots a remote-controlled car down a steep half-pipe.

OLIVER

Do you play any instruments?

RUBY

The piano. It's the only way to fly.

OLIVER

Piano? Why do you say that?

RUBY

It's the only instrument where if someone were over your house for a party, then started playing it? It would put a smile on everyone's face. But if someone took your violin out of its case, settled on the chinrest, then started fiddling away? You'd be like, "What do you think you're doing?"

Skaters work the half-pipe. Daring feats of athleticism.

RUBY

Same with say, the harp. If some girl makes herself at home in your parents' living room and starts playing their harp? That's the textbook definition of an asshole. And it's the harp, so that person is pretentious from the start, if only by virtue of the fact that they know how to play the harp. Your mom only has it there 'cause her interior designer thought it tied the room together for decorative purposes.

OLIVER

My mom does not have a designer.

RUBY

Tell someone who cares, Oliver Twist. Talk to your social worker.

Oliver chuckles.

OLIVER

Ruby... I don't want you to worry that at the end of the day here... I'm not going to try to kiss you or anything. Still... Would it be okay if I kissed you on the cheek later?

RUBY

... You're being serious, aren't you?

OLIVER

Hm. I'll take that as a "no."

RUBY

Please do.

OLIVER

... I've never been rejected before.

RUBY

Well, there's a first time for everything. Happy to be of service.

OLIVER

Jesus. This is really embarrassing.

RUBY

I certainly hope so... I'm not the kinda girl who kisses my lab partner at a skate park while dicking around with a remote-controlled car.

OLIVER

... I thought you thought I was cute.

RUBY

Oh, for fuck's sake.

Oliver smiles. It doesn't mask his disappointment.

RUBY

I do think you're cute, and I did love the flowers... But listen. You're not supposed to ask about a kiss; it should happen organically. And I don't like athletes. I don't trust them. God, I'm not even sure if I'm attracted to guys.

OLIVER

That's okay. I'm not attracted to guys, either.

INT. JAZZ CLUB -- DAY

Ruby and Oliver, enjoying a quick, spirited, afternoon set.

EXT. PET STORE - DAY

The pair cuddle and play with puppies. Ruby eyes her phone.

RUBY

I just got a text. Mr. Lorge will be out sick tomorrow. We're getting Mr. Backfish as a substitute... It's kind of messed up how when a teacher's out sick, everyone's happy. And the next day, no one asks how they're feeling.

OLIVER

I just don't like having a sub. Better the devil you know than the one you don't. Everyone hopes for the fill-in that doesn't make you do any work, but you end up getting the sub who works you harder than your regular teacher. And it's like, "Boss, what are you trying to prove here? Relax a little."

RUBY

Finally, something decent came out of those freakshow hands. But yeah, personally? When the regular teacher shows up the next day, I grill them. It's like, "Where were you yesterday?" Were you hung over or something?

EXT. NOB HILL -- DAY

Through telescopes, amateur ASTRONOMERS show Ruby and Oliver the solar system. They study Venus, Saturn, and the Milky Way.

K-CAFÉ PATISSERIE & TEA HOUSE - DAY

On plush couches, the pair dine under an ornate chandelier.

RUBY

We shouldn't have come here, Oliver. You can't afford this.

OLIVER

I'm not trying to impress you; it wouldn't work. You probably grew up eating Cartier diamonds for breakfast. I'm actually trying to impress myself.

RUBY

Good. I'm definitely not impressed by nice things. Though I do wanna know A) How you got a table at the hottest restaurant in town, and B) How you got the best seats in the house.

OLIVER

My mom said to talk to the waiter and tell them it's your birthday.

RUBY

So they'd bring me a free dessert.

OLIVER

It sounded like a bush league move.

RUBY

I think it's sweet.

OLIVER

Well, generally dessert is sweet.

RUBY

Yeah... That's a joke that should've stayed on your hand where it belongs.

OLIVER

My bad. But the whole cupcake thing? It's beneath me. I landed the rezzie and the table by telling the hostess when I called that I was planning to propose to you.

For the first time, Ruby smiles.

RUBY

Oliver... Don't call it a "rezzie."

A WAITER refills Oliver's glass. Oliver nods a "Thank you."

RUBY

That was gentlemanly of you to acknowledge him.

OLIVER

I don't treat people like they're the help. Prolly because I usually am the help. I thank people, and I'm direct.

RUBY

Boys don't really get that showing manners and kindness -- while also being direct? That's the way to go.

(MORE)

RUBY

When hitting on a girl, for example,
all you have to say is five words:
"Do you have a boyfriend."

OLIVER

That's a little too forward.

RUBY

It's not. The minute a girl hears,
"Do you have a boyfriend," this is
what happens. She thinks, "Oh, my God.
This guy's hitting on me." But that's
respectable, because you're not being
wishy-washy, you're being direct. Girls
respect that. From there, 1 of 3 things
happens: 1) If she has a boyfriend,
she'll tell you. 2) If you're not her
type, she'll lie, and pretend she has a
boyfriend. 3) If she says "No, I don't
have a boyfriend..." Well, that's her
giving you the go-ahead to shoot your
shot. As long as you don't say anything
too stupid the rest of the way, you've
got yourself a chance at the dance.

OLIVER (repeating)

Do you have a boyfriend.

RUBY

Do you have a boyfriend. Just ask.

OLIVER

... You sure know a lot about dating.

RUBY

Nah. I just read a lot online.

OLIVER

Still, you seem to be pretty savvy.
How many dates have you been on?

RUBY

... This is my first one.

(beat)

I mean, I've had a boyfriend, but it
just sorta came together in 9th grade.
We didn't go on a formal first date.

OLIVER

Same. One girlfriend, but you're the
first person I basically...asked out.

(beat)

What was his name? What did you like
about him?

RUBY

His name was Tyler, and I didn't like anything about him. He was lazy, mean, and he took me for granted... I can't believe I let him waste my time.

OLIVER

... Well at least you're comfortable addressing it. With my ex-girlfriend, I never even tell people her name.

RUBY

You don't tell people her name.

OLIVER

Nah. Partly to respect her privacy.

RUBY

Gotcha. What'd you like about her?

OLIVER

... How much time do you have?

EXT. MT. DAVIDSON - DAY

Ruby and Oliver sit on a bench. They take in the lovely view.

EXT. TELEGRAPH HILL - DAY

The pair walk down the most beautiful staircase in America.

OLIVER

What are you reading in English?

RUBY

Tale of Two Cities... Charles Dickens should be judged more harshly when compared to today's writers who have more to distract them. All Dickens had to do was attend public hangings and eat mutton chops by candlelight.

(beat)

I read that somewhere. But yeah, Dickens is pretty stellar stuff.

OLIVER

We just read the love letters that Napoleon...sent to Josephine.

RUBY

And?

OLIVER
 (crinkles his nose)
 They weren't very good.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY

Ruby and Oliver sit cross-legged on the grass. Oliver tries to open the plastic casing on a recently purchased slingshot.

LATER, flat on their stomachs, they take turns loading rocks into the slingshot's launchpad. They fire away at a soda can.

EXT. BALMY ALLEY - DAY

Walking slowly, Ruby and Oliver return to ground zero.

OLIVER
 I guess it's the end of the line.
 Maybe I'll see you again one day.
 (smiling)
 Aside from 7 in the morning tomorrow,
 which, hey -- I'm excited to see you.

RUBY
 Oliver, I don't know. Like, we go to college next year, so I'd rather not risk the little friendship we've got here. Sometimes good things go south.
 (beat)
 Also, there's a part of me that feels the need to reject you before you get a chance to reject me. With my dad cheating on my mom, things are weird.

OLIVER
 No worries... Though it's too bad my kiss on the cheek request was shot down. I thought I had that. Maybe the Air Force is a bad idea.

RUBY
 I think you'll get over it.

OLIVER
 Get over what? The Air Force or you?

RUBY
 ... The Air Force.

Ruby looks down for a moment. Then, she looks back up.

RUBY
 Show me your hands. I just want to know what you wrote.

OLIVER

Ruby... I talk a lot. I like to think of myself as a great listener, but listening is often grist for the mill that gives me -- you know -- stuff to talk about. I just talk way too much.

RUBY

... Show me your hands.

After a moment, Oliver shows Ruby his left palm. In large letters, it reads: ASK HER QUESTIONS. Next, Oliver shows Ruby his right palm. In large letters, it reads: ABOUT HERSELF.

OLIVER

It's interesting, because again, I talk a lot, and I talked a lot today. But I also noticed that I asked you about 250 questions, and you only asked me one. It's not that you weren't kind and engaging, you just never even thought to ask me more than that one question. So, it doesn't come as a surprise when you say you don't want to see me again. Or kiss me. And that's totally cool.

(beat)

I gotta go. But I want you to know that I had fun today. You're great company... I hope you had fun, too.

INT. FERRARI - DAY

Ruby climbs in. Sits in silence.

RUBY

It didn't go well... He was really sweet, but it didn't go well.

INT. HYUNDAI - DAY

With Alice, Oliver similarly sits in silence.

OLIVER

She's not that into me.

(beat)

It's fine. It didn't go well...but she was really sweet.

INT. FERRARI - DAY

Ruby watches Lucas as he waits outside on a pizza.

EXT. BALMY ALLEY - DAY

Alice presses the buttons on an outdoor ATM machine.

INT. FERRARI - DAY

Ruby looks miserable. She opens her door and leaves.

INT. HYUNDAI - DAY

Oliver sees Ruby approaching. He lowers the window.

OLIVER

You showed up.

RUBY

Looks that way.

(beat)

I'm excited to see you tomorrow,
too... You don't seem too thrilled.

OLIVER

I'm not gonna lie... I thought you
were going to say that it was okay
for me to kiss you on the cheek.

Ruby kisses her finger. She then gently presses it to Oliver's cheek. They both smile. After quite some time, Ruby leans down and gives Oliver an innocent, two-second long peck on the lips.

Then, Ruby leaves and walks towards her car. Halfway across the street, she stops and turns. Ruby returns to the window.

RUBY

Do you want to hang out Friday night?

(beat)

Not a bad follow-up question, is it?

OLIVER (smiling)

I'm glad you've had a change of heart,
but am I not good enough for Saturday?
to see you on a Saturday night?

RUBY

I'm free on Saturday, too, but I'd
rather do Friday. It's just... The
extra 24 hours is too much. I don't
wanna wait that long to see you again.

Oliver smiles. Ruby does, too. Oliver exits the car, and the pair share a final, two-second long peck on the lips.

FIRST DATE