

KLEIN, PARTY OF TWO

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Time: 2005

Place: An upscale restaurant.

Characters:

PETE: Male. 27.

REGGIE: Male. 27.

ALEXA: Female. 25.

WAITER. Male. 23.

At rise we see PETE standing at a podium in a restaurant lobby. The WAITER approaches the podium to greet him.

WAITER

Good evening, sir. Do you have a reservation?

PETE

Klein, party of two.

WAITER

(Glancing over the guest list) ... Klein... Klein... ah, here it is. Your table will be ready in a few minutes, sir. In the meantime you can have a seat over here...

The WAITER makes a motion with his hand toward the bench.

PETE

Thanks.

The WAITER leaves and PETE sits by himself. He looks around to take in his surroundings. As his head is turned, REGGIE enters the room and sits on the bench without PETE noticing.

REGGIE

This is a really nice place, isn't it?

PETE turns to face him and is nearly dumbstruck.

PETE

(In disbelief) ... what are you doing here, Reggie?

REGGIE

(Wryly) What? He actually *speaks* to me? Tell me, Petey, what *is* the occasion?

PETE stares in silence. REGGIE stands up and starts to pace around in front of the bench. He raises his index finger upward as is preparing to give a lecture.

REGGIE

You have not made eye-contact with me in the last thirteen years, not even once. I've said "hi," I've tried to make conversation, and you just stared right through me every single time. We used to be friends, Petey. What happened?

PETE

When we were fourteen, my parents said I was sick, they took me to a doctor. He said I was crazy; he gave me some pills, which my parents made me take. And then you were gone.

REGGIE

I never went anywhere! You just stopped talking to me one day. I never left, where the hell would I go? Do you think I have anyone else to talk to, Petey?

PETE

Would you stop calling me that. No one calls me "Petey" anymore.

REGGIE

Okay, Pete, then how 'bout...

PETE

My *friends* call me "Pete." You're not my friend, please leave me alone.

The WAITER returns to the podium.

WAITER

Klein, party of two.

PETE stands up.

WAITER

Has the other member of your party arrived yet?

PETE

She should be here soon.

WAITER

Very well. Right this way.

The WAITER leads PETE to a small table with two chairs, while Reggie trails behind them both. PETE sits down, and REGGIE sits opposite to him.

WAITER

Here you are sir. Can I start you off with a drink?

PETE

No, thanks. I'll just wait till my date gets here.

REGGIE

Your “date?” Petey, you finally worked up the nerve to ask a girl out? Good for you.

PETE

You know, I’m not fourteen years old anymore. Alright, asshole?

WAITER

(Confused) Umm... I’m sorry, sir.

PETE

Oh! I ... wasn’t talking to you, I was just... never mind.

WAITER

(Perplexed) ...very well, sir.

The WAITER leaves.

REGGIE

Did I sense some hostility coming from you? ‘Cause you know what? You don’t have any reason to be mad at me; I’ve been your friend since day one. If anything, I should be mad at you. You’d blow me off and walk right past me for thirteen years. We grew up together, how can you do that to me?

PETE

It’s easy to ignore someone who’s not real, especially when all they do is make you look crazy in front of everybody else. I don’t think I would have fit in very well in high school if I went around talking to myself all the time.

REGGIE

Well you don’t have to talk out loud to me, genius. If I’m just a figment of your imagination, then can’t you just *think* whatever you want to say?

PETE stares intently at REGGIE, looking as if he is trying to broadcast his thoughts. He grows more visibly frustrated as the seconds pass. REGGIE remains calm.

REGGIE

What are you doing? You look ridiculous.

PETE

(Frustrated) I’m *thinking* to you.

REGGIE

Oh, is that what that was? I wasn’t getting’ you at all.

PETE

You said it would work.

REGGIE

Well, I *assumed* it would.

PETE

That's it! I'm calling my doctor first thing tomorrow, and I'm getting my dosage upped. I'm too damn old to have an imaginary friend. I can't have you ruining my life like you did with my whole childhood.

REGGIE

Ruined you childhood? I was your only friend Pete, I was the only *good* thing you had going for you. You cut me out of your life and I forgave you. Now you're just going to turn your back on me again?

PETE sits there in silence, pretending not to see or hear REGGIE.

REGGIE

(Hurt) So that's how it's going to be, huh? ...Alright, I can play that game.

ALEXA enters and walks toward the table.

ALEXA

Pete! Sorry, I was running a little late... you look good.

REGGIE stands up, as if to free her seat, and he steps back to check her out. ALEXA sits down in the chair.

PETE

Thanks. And I don't mind that you're late either, just because you look *that* good.

REGGIE

Oh please! You couldn't get anything from a broad this fine even if her forehead was superglued to your belt buckle.

PETE looks at REGGIE intently, but does not respond. The WAITER returns to the table.

WAITER

Could I get you two some drinks?

PETE

Uh, sure... could you bring us a bottle of pinot grigio? And... (to ALEXA) do you want anything else?

ALEXA

No, that'll be fine. I *love* pinot!

PETE

Really? It's my favorite.

REGGIE

Oh that's right, Petey, I forgot what a wine connoisseur you are. And here I could have sworn that you were just full of shit.

WAITER

I'll be right back with that bottle for you two. If you need anything else let me know.

The WAITER leaves.

PETE

How was your day, Lex? I'm gonna go ahead and guess that Meyers kept you at the office?

ALEXA

Yeah, that guy is such a dick. It's bad enough that I have to spend all day pretending that he's not staring at my ass every chance he gets, but he's also got to keep me there as long as he can 'cause I guess he thinks I'm just gonna throw myself at him one of these days. It's ... I'm sorry, it's just been a long day.

PETE

It's always a long day with Meyers in charge.

REGGIE

Sounds like Meyers spends a lot of long days in charge of her... *if* you know what I mean.

PETE

(To REGGIE) I know what you mean!

ALEXA

Huh?

PETE

Oh, I mean I know what it's like with Meyers and all that.

ALEXA

Really? Meyers hits on you?

REGGIE doubles over laughing at this.

PETE

(Caught off-guard) ... No... but sometimes he makes me feel a little ...uncomfortable. He always stands a little too close in the men's room. And there are no partitions between those urinals, you know!

REGGIE claps his hands in applause.

REGGIE

(Chuckling) Bravo, Petey-boy, nice one.

ALEXA

I'm sure it's very awkward.

A ring slips off ALEXA'S finger and drops to the floor. She leans over to pick it up. REGGIE then stands VERY close to her and makes a series of obscene gestures concerning parts of her body in relation to his crotch. PETE does not find the display amusing.

PETE

(Trying not to lose his composure) What are you doing?

ALEXA

Looking for my ring, I dropped it on the floor – Oh, wait, found it!

REGGIE

Oh she *found* it, Petey!

PETE

Well that's good news.

ALEXA sits back up and REGGIE halts his antics. He then starts blatantly ogling her (i.e. staring right down her shirt, eyeing her up at an extremely close distance, etc.)

ALEXA

Eww it has schmutz on it.

PETE

Schmutz? Really?

ALEXA

Yeah, schmutz.

PETE

Hmm. This is a nice place; you wouldn't think they'd allow schmutz in here.

ALEXA

I'll be right back, I have to wash this off.

PETE

Good luck.

ALEXA stands up and leaves.

PETE

Reggie, sit down!

Without hesitation, REGGIE excitedly jumps into the seat.

REGGIE

Finally ready to talk with me, buddy?

PETE

(Dead serious) I'm going to make this quick: I like this girl. If you mess up my chances with her, I will *never* speak to you again. But if you can make yourself scarce, I promise you I will get us both drunk off our asses tomorrow, and you will have my undivided attention the whole time. Okay?

REGGIE

You... you really mean that?

PETE

Yes! Now just let me get on with my night. Please, before Lex sees me talking to myself.

REGGIE

(Exuberantly) Alright, buddy! I'll catch you tomorrow.

PETE

See you later, Reggie.

REGGIE

Later on, Pete.

REGGIE stands up and leaves as the WAITER returns with the bottle of wine.

WAITER

Your wine, sir.

PETE

Thank you.

The WAITER leaves just before ALEXA returns from the ladies' room. She walks back to the table and sits down.

ALEXA

I'm sorry about that, where were we?

PETE

Don't worry about it. Let's start again. Just the two of us.

Fade to Black. End.