

Breaking Them Up

Erin

26.

EXT. ROSTAND MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

It's set up like a farmer's market, each mom having their own table. Damien, Erin and Phil arrive and are handed programs showing the contents of each table. Phil marvels.

PHIL

Poppysed cake. Rhubarb meringue tartlets. Lemon bars. Nice!

Phil stops, something's caught in his throat, and he tries clearing it of phlegm. It's loud and disgusting and Erin gives Damien a look.

DAMIEN

Why don't you go to the restroom? We'll catch up with you later.

PHIL

Wait, lemme give you some cash in case you see something you like.

DAMIEN

I have money.

Phil opens his wallet, he's got three crumpled up dollars.

PHIL

Is there an ATM inside?

DAMIEN

Past the koi pond, right next to the blackjack tables. Of course there's not an ATM. It's a school.

Damien opens his wallet, flush with cash. Forks over a 20.

PHIL

Thanks, son.

Start Phil heads inside. Erin starts marking up her program.

DAMIEN

Who are you crossing out?

ERIN

The ones who are married or already in relationships.

DAMIEN

Didn't Ms. Taylor just get divorced?

ERIN

Yeah, but according to her Happn profile, after 16 years of marriage, all she wants now is an "N-S-A F-W-B relationship - all genders welcome."

DAMIEN

Well ok.

ERIN

Leaves us with...26 women. Hm. It's kind of like a school dance.

DAMIEN

When did you go to a dance?

ERIN

Last year. The Tropical Para-dance. My mom was trying to get me to be more social.

DAMIEN

Thank god my parents gave up on that years ago.

ERIN

The way it worked was all the boys tried to talk to the prettier girls first. And once those girls decided, they moved on to the others.

A look at the tables show the PRETTIER WOMEN surrounded by DADS. The LESS ATTRACTIVE WOMENS' tables are empty.

DAMIEN

Might wanna cross off Ms. Ryan, too.

ERIN

What about Ms. Trevino? She's a corporate attorney. Your dad wouldn't have to work.

DAMIEN

I can't really see my dad going for the corporate attorney type.

ERIN

(crosses her out)

What about Ms. Collender? She owns a vintage clothing store.

DAMIEN

Would you wanna be step-brothers
with Malcolm and Ren?

Next to a PLEASANT WOMAN (35) are her TWIN SONS (14), cameo
fatigues, one's hand is on the table, the other stabs his
knife in between the others fingers as fast as he can.

ERIN

Fair enough.
(crosses off)
Ooooooh. How about Ms. Moyer?

She gestures at an OBESE WOMAN IN GLASSES.

DAMIEN

Oh....

ERIN

C'mon. She's a director for Amnesty
International, and she's on the
board for Planned Parenthood. And
she's super nice. She's like the
sweetest person I've ever met.

DAMIEN

I dunno...

ERIN

Why? Just cause she's a little
overweight?

DAMIEN

I have no problem with that. But my
dad might. Let's be realistic. You
think he'll go from my mom to, you
know (her)...

ERIN

Well then how about Ms. Boggs?

They look at a SWEET, PRETTY WOMAN (38), cutting up a six-
pack soda ring with scissors.

DAMIEN

She's not bad looking.

ERIN

Is that all guys think of?

DAMIEN

I'm thinking of my dad.

ERIN

Well I think she's very pretty. And she's a computer programmer. That's kind of creative, like your dad.

(the downside)

Of course you'd have to be step-brothers with Carly.

Assisting Boggs is a PRETTY GIRL (14) in her cheerleading outfit. Damien would likely be very ok with that.

DAMIEN

Well nobody's perfect. What did she make?

ERIN

Reese's peanut butter cheesecake.

DAMIEN

My dad loves cheesecake. And he loves peanut butter. He'll put it on cereal.

ERIN

I've seen him.

DAMIEN

I think she could be the one.

ERIN

Great. Where's your dad?

They look around. No sign of him.

DAMIEN

Maybe he's still inside. You stay on guard. Any of these chumps move in on her, punch 'em in the crotch.

ERIN

Will do.

End

Damien heads into the school.

INT. ROSTAND MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Damien goes into the restroom but it's empty.

He comes back out and heads to the exit when he hears some piano playing coming from the...

7) Jason nails the salsa scene and Phil celebrates and high fives him. Really boisterous. Robin smiles at him.

Damien clocks her reaction, then hears someone laughing. It's Erin, who's with Lou. Damien rolls his eyes.

Start

INT. ROSTAND MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Damien puts a small trophy shaped like the Wall Street Bull in his locker when Erin arrives.

ERIN

(re trophy)

Second place Mr. Stock Market wiz. I guess all those times we watched *Wolf of Wall Street* paid off.

DAMIEN

I guess so.

ERIN

So what's up?

DAMIEN

Nothing.

Damien shuts his locker and walks off and she follows him.

ERIN

Are you mad at me?

DAMIEN

Why would you think that?

ERIN

It kinda feels like you've been avoiding me. I texted you like four times yesterday.

DAMIEN

Well I've been a little busy, in case you've forgotten.

ERIN

Ok. Did you see that guy who was gonna go base jumping off the Empire State Building but chickened out and they had to rescue him?

DAMIEN

I didn't. Anything else?

ERIN
...Why are you acting like this?

DAMIEN
Like what?

ERIN
Like...this. You're being weird.

DAMIEN
I'm being weird? That's funny.

The bell rings and everyone scrambles into their classes.

ERIN
Why's it funny?

DAMIEN
You're going out with Lou, but I'm the weird one. Whatever, weirdo.

ERIN
Tch. I knew it. Ever since we started going out you've been acting like this.

DAMIEN
Cause I think it's crazy. Ok?

ERIN
Why's it crazy?

DAMIEN
Cause it's Lou. By your own admission he's a cheeseball. Instead of saying something's funny he says 'that's lol'. For the last three years he's gone as himself for Halloween and says he's "Time Magazine's 2006 Person of the Year." And he's a liar! Remember last year he told everyone he was dating Miranda Cosgrove's sister, and then when it was pointed out that she's an only child he acted like he never said it. Just totally denied it! That's why it's crazy. I just don't understand why you're even going out with him.

They're now the only people in the hallway.

ERIN

Why are you yelling at me? Like, I don't know why you're so angry.

DAMIEN

I'm not angry, I'm...worried about you. Cause you're my friend, and I don't know what's going on with you.

ERIN

You're worried about me? Really? Because you don't sound worried, you sound like...jealous, or something.

DAMIEN

Jealous? Jealous of who?

ERIN

I dunno. Maybe- maybe you're jealous of Lou.

DAMIEN

Tch. You cannot be serious. What do I have to be jealous of? The fact that he can flip his eyelid inside out? Or his vast collection of cargo shorts? Please. I can't think of a single reason why I'd be jealous of Lou. Not a one.

ERIN

So you're saying you never liked me?

DAMIEN

What? What are you talking about?

ERIN

Damien. Please, just answer the question. Did you like me? Yes, or no?

DAMIEN

...No. I mean, ya know, we were just friends.

ERIN

(whatever)

Well I really liked you.

Erin walks off.

End