

Breaking Them Up

Jason

45.

DAMIEN
That's super depressing.

ERIN
My parents both went through a rough time after they split up, too.

DAMIEN
Oh man. I don't even want to think about what would happen if my parents break up.

ERIN
What do you mean?

DAMIEN
C'mon, you've seen my dad, the guy can hardly take care of himself.

ERIN
Your mom seems pretty stable.

DAMIEN
Please. Look what's happened since my grandma died: she's become all OCD about exercising and eating and everything. I have no idea what's going on with her. Seriously, left to their own devices, who knows what they're capable of? This is why I can't let them end up alone.

Start

Jason comes over and grabs the ketchup bottle.

JASON
Yo, we're headed to the roof as soon as my dad passes out.

They glance at Jason's dad, at a table, about to pass out.

~~LOU~~
~~Yeah Erin, you should come.~~

DAMIEN
Spin the bottle. How juvenile.

JASON
You afraid to let someone else kiss your girlfriend?

DAMIEN
She's not my girlfriend, ok? We're just friends. That's all.

Erin forces a nod, perhaps a little hurt.

LOU
Yeah. Man. They're just friends.

JASON
Pfft. Whatever. Enjoy the crawfish.

End

ERIN
I think I'll play.

LOU
Cool. Let's go!

DAMIEN
What? Excuse us for a second.

Damien pulls Erin aside to speak quietly.

DAMIEN (cont'd)
What are you doing?

ERIN
I've never played before.

DAMIEN
Look at some of those guys. There's Sam Coal. He's been in braces since like second grade. And Matt Kouf! His family's all into Ayurveda, and his breath always wreaks of garlic. It's hideous! You sure about this?

ERIN
If you don't wanna play, you don't have to. If you're...

DAMIEN
If I'm what? Scared?

ERIN
Damien. It's me.

DAMIEN
Pfft. Please. I'm not- tch. Ok, fine. Ya know what? I think I'll play, too. Let's spin this bottle.

Start EXT. WAREHOUSE ROOF - NIGHT

Jason plugs his iPhone into some speakers and puts on a playlist. "Let's Get it On" starts up.

- There's shots of the bottle spinning, some of the kids then kissing.

- Renise spins, it lands on Lou.

RENISE
(hell no)
No.

- Erin's turn. Lou crosses himself and says a prayer. She spins. It's about to stop on Lou, but Jason grabs the bottle and turns it to land on Damien. Lou's devastated.

LOU
Ahhhhh!

DAMIEN
Very funny.

JASON
We're all friends here. Especially you two. Right?

Damien and Erin move towards each other. Damien's nervous.

Erin closes her eyes, but Damien's not moving closer. He's frozen, and then...Jason's drunk dad stumbles in.

MR. PAULSON
What the hell's going on?

JASON
Nothing!

End

Everyone scatters and Jason hides the ketchup bottle.

DAMIEN
Close one, right?

Erin seems disappointed.

INT. DAMIEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Damien returns home carrying a shopping bag and finds Laurie in her tennis outfit.

LAURIE
What do you got going on today?

EXT. CARDINAL ADVENTURES - DAY

Greg puffs on his vape as he sees the class off.

GREG

Don't forget everyone. My place,
tonight at eight. Make sure you wear
your dancing shoes.

DOYLE

Susan's bringing quesadillas, so I
recommend everyone eat beforehand.

Susan playfully slaps him.

EXT. ROSTAND MIDDLE SCHOOL - NIGHT

The school marquee says: GUYS AND DOLLS - 7:00.

INT. ROSTAND MIDDLE SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Damien has trouble getting the curtains open. Someone
dashes over and helps him and they open. It's Lou.

Damien nods at Lou, appreciative, as the audience applauds
and the play begins.

LATER

Phil plays "If I Were a Bell". Laurie clocks his joy.

Start LATER

LEAD ACTRESS

I wanna have a normal home with
wallpaper and book ends.

JASON AS SKY MASTERSON

Well then fall in love with people.
Not with gamblers. Adelaide, my
daddy once told me: no matter who
you get married to, you wake up
married to somebody else. You take
it the way the dice falls.

End

On Laurie, those words hitting close to home.

LATER

The play is over. Phil takes his bow. Laurie applauds and
smiles. She has an almost guilty look about her.