

(Printed with the demonstration version of Fade In)

Date Night  
24-film Competition

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INT. PARTY NIGHT

Caleb is surrounded by a group of girls. They all laugh and giggle as party music plays.

CALEB  
No, I know what she's talking about.  
I fell down those stairs once.

More laughter.

CALEB (cont'd)  
Well, I mean they should just convert  
it into a slide.

All the girls laugh.

COURTNEY.  
Wouldn't that mean you still fall  
down them? You'd look like Mario  
falling down his pipes.

Zoom in on Caleb's eyes going wide. Light shines down on Courtney as wind blows through her hair.

CALEB  
Woah.

GIRL 1  
What?

COURTNEY.  
What?

CALEB  
I mean. WOAHH-ho. Hold your horses.  
Haha!

Nobody laughs. Awkward beat.

COURTNEY.  
Uh- Who wants a drink?

GIRL 1  
Ooo me!

GIRL 2  
Yeah me too.

Courtney leaves. Caleb follows after her to the punch bowl.

CALEB  
Hey, um. Would you want to go to the  
arcade with me?

A girl by the cooler laughs.

GIRL 3  
Courtney? At the arcade?

CALEB  
(nervous laugh)

COURTNEY.  
Hey, the arcade's not-

CALEB  
Yeah, I know, of course not. I mean-

COURTNEY.  
Yeah sure. Whatever.

CALEB  
Really?

Courtney awkwardly looks at Caleb.

CALEB (cont'd)  
I mean, yeah. Great! I'll text you  
the address. Tomorrow at five?

Courtney nods.

INT. CALEB'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Caleb walks in with a goofy grin on his face. Roommates are chanting as one of the roommates tries to fit more m&ms in his mouth.

ROOMATES  
103! 104! 105!-

Jeremy (one of the roommates) splutters and spits out the m&ms.

JEREMY  
Ha! What's gotten into you?

CALEB  
What?

JEREMY  
What's with the stupid grin on your  
face?

CALEB

I'm going on a date. With Courtney.

JEREMY

Woah! Courtney?

JORDAN

Really?

CALEB

Why's that so hard to believe?

JORDAN

Cause she's way too mature for you!

JEREMY

Yeah, isn't she a music major?

JORDAN

I think her favorite song is all of Swan Lake.

JEREMY

Where are you taking her?

CALEB

(hesitant)

The arcade.

JORDAN

PSHH! The Arcade!? What are you, five?

JEREMY

Ha! You gotta grow up. Spend some money like a man and take her on a real date.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT AFTERNOON/EVENING

Caleb wears a fancy outfit. Sitting alone at a romantic dinner table. Courtney enters dressed casually for the arcade. Obviously uncomfortable. Caleb hops up and pulls out Courtney's chair.

CALEB

Allow me.

Caleb pushes Courtney in very far.

COURTNEY.

Careful. You gotta give me more space for me ego.

CALEB  
Huh?

COURTNEY.  
Just kidding. But uh-

Courtney scoots back a little. Caleb sits down.

COURTNEY. (cont'd)  
This is *not* the arcade.

CALEB  
Yeah, I was going to take you to see  
Swan Lake, but uh- the flier I found  
was from 2019.

COURTNEY.  
(chuckles)

CALEB  
(nervous)  
But, I know this place is good. Cause  
I'm a SERIOUS food cone-soiree.

Caleb sits down. The two pick up the menus. POV shot Caleb's eyes zero in on the mac and cheese on the menu. Then the lobster.

CALEB (cont'd)  
What do you usually like to eat?

COURTNEY.  
Oh, I mean the salad looks-

Courtney's voice fade out. Back to the POV shot of Caleb's eyes darting back and forth between the mac&cheese and the lobster. The Waiter comes up.

WAITER  
Are you ready to order?

CALEB  
(startles)  
Ah! I mean, yeah! I'll have the  
lobster.

COURTNEY.  
And I'll have the spaghetti, but  
replace the side salad with mac &  
cheese.

Caleb looks shocked. Close up again of bright lights and wind flowing through Courtney's hair. He suddenly snaps out of it.

CALEB

Ha! Mac and cheese? Are you going to ask for a little toy too?

COURTNEY.

Haha, um.. no.

CALEB

(nervous)

Uh- no of course not.

Caleb takes a big drink of water.

EXT. HIKING TRAIL DAY

Caleb is still dressed up as he and Courtney start hiking.

COURTNEY.

You're seriously going to hike in those shoes?

CALEB

Yeah!

COURTNEY.

In the mud!? It rained last night. A lot. Like, cats and dogs.

CALEB

I'm a real SERIOUS hiker. Besides, you'll love the lake at the top.

COURTNEY.

Yeah... okay.

They start hiking up the trail.

COURTNEY.

Hey look! A Geo-caching site!

Courtney looks behind a rock.

CALEB

(gasp)

Really?

Caleb's sudden spin makes him trip and land in the mud. His suit is covered in mud.

Courtney laughs.

CALEB (cont'd)  
(flustered)  
Agh- oh. Oh no!

COURTNEY.  
Are you okay?

CALEB  
(dejected)  
No, really I'm sorry. Here, I'll just  
take you home.

COURTNEY.  
What? Why?

CALEB  
I I- I can't really do any of this  
fancy stuff.

Courtney's eyes go wide. Light shines down on Caleb and wind  
blows through his hair dramatically.

COURTNEY.  
Are you kidding? This is hilarious!

CALEB  
Yeah, but I know you like serious-

COURTNEY.  
Oh, please. I get so sick of people  
who take themselves so seriously all  
the time!

CALEB  
Really?

COURTNEY  
It's feels so childish!

CALEB  
What? Oh. I mean. Yeah. In that case.

Caleb reaches his hand out to Courtney for a hand up.  
Courtney takes his hand, and Caleb pulls her into the mud.

COURTNEY.  
(hahah)  
Hey!

CALEB  
Now, let's go to the arcade.

Sweet music fades as they leave the scene.