

Ava Coggin

Age: 15, Grade: 9

Home School, Prattville, AL

Educator: Lucas Jacob

Category: Dramatic Script

Match-Making

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

MARTHA – A 40-year-old woman with beady eyes and a perpetual frown. Her hair is black with streaks of grey, and is tied back in a tight bun. She wears a pale blue knee-length dress and brown fuzzy slippers.

NATHANIEL – A 25-year-old man, and MARTHA's cousin. He wears blue jeans and a flannel shirt. His hair is black, and his eyes are grey. He is taller than MARTHA.

CALLIE – A 23-year-old woman, who works at the same grocery store as NATHANIEL. She has straight, blonde hair, and wears a loose white shirt, and has a necklace with a pendant in the shape of a dog's paw print.

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(It is a Saturday afternoon. The scene starts in MARTHA'S living room. There are a couple of chairs, a fancy rug, and shelves with antique teacups on them. Upstage left is the door to the kitchen. The door to MARTHA's house is at stage right, and next to the door is a window. MARTHA and NATHANIEL are sitting in chairs, talking quietly. There are at least five cats in the room, probably more.)

(There is a knock on the door.)

NATHANIEL: I'll get it. *(He gets up from his chair and walks over to the door. He opens it, and standing on the porch is CALLIE.)*

CALLIE: Nathaniel?

NATHANIEL: Callie?

CALLIE: Is this your house?

NATHANIEL: No, this is my cousin's house.

CALLIE: Oh.

NATHANIEL: You're welcome to come inside. *(NATHANIEL steps back. CALLIE walks into the house. NATHANIEL closes the door behind her. He glances at her, then looks away. MARTHA gets up from her chair and crosses her arms.)*

MARTHA: *(Raises an eyebrow.)* Do you two know each other?

NATHANIEL: She's my coworker. *(He glances nervously at CALLIE, then looks away again.)*

MARTHA: Ah. (*Looks at CALLIE.*) What brings you here?

CALLIE: My car broke down, so I came to ask for help. I wanted to call someone, but I left my phone at home, so I walked up here.

NATHANIEL: Oh no. What happened?

CALLIE: It just stopped working. I think there may be a problem with the engine.

NATHANIEL. I'm sorry. Are you alright?

CALLIE: I'm okay. I just need to get home.

MARTHA: I'll call Phil. He can tow your car to the nearest mechanic, then it'll be fixed and you can be on your way. (*She pulls her phone out of her pocket, types in the number and holds it to her ear. There is a pause while she waits for Phil to answer.*) . . . Hey, Phil. . . Oh, it's fine over here. Look, some girl just showed up at my house, says her car broke down. She needs it towed to the mechanic so it can be fixed. . . Got it. See you soon. (*She puts her phone back in her pocket.*)Phil.says he can be here in 5 minutes, but he moves about as fast as a sleep-deprived snail, so it'll probably be closer to 10.

NATHANIEL: (*Quickly, to CALLIE*) Why don't you have a seat?(*He motions towards the chairs, trying to smile normally but looking a little bit crazy. CALLIE does not notice his weird behavior.*)

CALLIE: Thank you. (*She sits down awkwardly in one of the chairs. MARTHA picks up one of the cats and sits down in the other chair, putting the cat in her lap. Nathaniel stands awkwardly for a few seconds, then sits on the floor next to CALLIE'S chair. MARTHA gives NATHANIEL an arch look. NATHANIEL focuses as hard as he can on the ground. There is a moment of awkward silence.*)

MARTHA: You're acting weird, Nathan.

NATHANIEL: What do you mean? I'm not acting weird.

MARTHA: Yeah you are.

(*They stare at each other for a moment.*)

NATHANIEL: (*Quickly*) So, Callie, what have you been doing?

CALLIE: I just visited my parents!

NATHANIEL: How are they?

CALLIE: They're doing fine. They've decorated for Valentine's Day, so there are paper hearts hanging up all over their house.

NATHANIEL: Awesome.

(*NATHANIEL and CALLIE look at each other awkwardly for a moment.*)

(*MARTHA looks at the audience with a mischievous smirk, and says in a stage whisper: "I think they like each other."*)

NATHANIEL: Did you say something?

MARTHA: (*Still grinning triumphantly*) No, nothin'.

NATHANIEL: Ohhhhhh-kay, then.

(Another pause.)

CALLIE: Hey Martha, do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

MARTHA: I don't really 'celebrate.' I just put ribbons on my cats.

CALLIE: How cute!

MARTHA: What are *you* doing for Valentine's Day?

CALLIE: I probably won't do much. I don't have a date, so I might stay at home and read or something. What about you, Nathaniel?

NATHANIEL: Um. Nothing. *(He glances around the room, then looks back down.)*

MARTHA: You could try to get a date! *(She winks at him.)*

NATHANIEL: I... uh... who would I ask out? *(Glances briefly at CALLIE.)*

MARTHA: Oh, I don't know.... There has to be *someone* you like. *(Winks again)*

NATHANIEL: Uhhhhh. . . *(Quickly)* Oh, what did you think about that weird rainstorm yesterday?

CALLIE: It was very strange.

NATHANIEL: Yeah, that was odd. What do you think caused it?

CALLIE: Who knows.

(NATHANIEL goes back to staring at the floor.)

CALLIE: So, Martha. You're Nathaniel's cousin, right?

MARTHA: Indeed, I am.

CALLIE: Cool.

MARTHA: And you work with him?

CALLIE: Yes.

MARTHA: I see.

CALLIE: I noticed you have a few cats.

MARTHA: Yes. This one is Muffin. Over there are Snowy and Spot. That's Mr. Whiskers by the door, and Fluff is under your chair. And that isn't even all of them.

CALLIE: Wow. I don't have any cats; I just have three very big dogs.

MARTHA: Oh! You know, Nathaniel *looooooves* dogs. Adores them! Don't you, Nathaniel?*(She pats his shoulder.)*

CALLIE: Really? You do?

NATHANIEL: Um. Yeah.

CALLIE: Cool! What's your favorite breed?

NATHANIEL: Uhhhhh.... The fluffy ones that herd sheep.

CALLIE: *(Laughs)* That doesn't narrow it down much. I like golden retrievers!

NATHANIEL: Yeah. Those are cute.

MARTHA: I think this is going very well! You both love dogs, you work together so you can talk often.... Hey, maybe you two should go out for Valentine's Day!

(There is a very long pause.)

MARTHA: What's wrong?

NATHANIEL: Go out? With Callie?

MARTHA: Why not?

NATHANIEL: Uhhhh.... I....

CALLIE: I haven't been on a date in a long time.

NATHANIEL: Yeah. It's, uh... probably not a good—

MARTHA: *(interrupting him)* Oh, come on! Ask her out!

NATHANIEL: But what if Callie—

MARTHA: *(Interrupting him again)* Won't you be sad if you spend Valentine's Day alone?

NATHANIEL: I... uh....

CALLIE: I'd like to go on a date with you.

NATHANIEL: *(Shocked)* You—what?

MARTHA: There you go, Nathaniel! Now, ask her!

NATHANIEL: Well, um.... Will you be my date tomorrow, then?

CALLIE: Absolutely!

MARTHA: Alright, Nathan!

(NATHANIEL smiles slightly.)

(There are the sounds of a car pulling into the driveway outside. Martha gets up from her chair and walks to the window to see what's happening.)

MARTHA: Phil's here. He actually got here on time for once. You two have about ten seconds to work out the rest of the details!

(CALLIE and NATHANIEL get up from their chairs.)

CALLIE: Where should we go?

NATHANIEL: I don't know.

CALLIE: What if we . . . get tickets for a movie?

NATHANIEL: Sounds great!

MARTHA: Alright, lovebirds! As much fun as this was, Callie needs to go out there and show Phil where her car is.

CALLIE: Oh, I just parked it on the side of the road. I can take him to it. *(She looks at Nathaniel)* See you tomorrow!

NATHANIEL: See you tomorrow. Happy Valentine's day!

CALLIE: Happy Valentine's day.

(Callie opens the door, walks out, and closes it behind her.)

(MARTHA walks up to stand beside NATHANIEL.)

MARTHA: Good job, Nathan.

NATHANIEL: Thanks. I'm not sure what I did, though.

MARTHA: *(Smiles)* You got yourself a date.