

Why to Date a Synesthete

By

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JOHN and DANA are on an intriguing first date that becomes more and more bizzare as it continues. A sudden turn snaps the pair back to reality in this spunky comedy.

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## Cast of Characters

DANA: Sweet woman, like soda. Same approx. age as JOHN.

JOHN: A suave, smooth gent.

ELLEN: A young waitress with a burning desire. Younger than DANA and JOHN.

## Scene

A cafe/restaurant

## Time

In the evening

*DANA & JOHN are sitting at restaurant together.  
They are giggling. JOHN pulls out a handheld  
mirror.*

DANA

Whoa! We already at that point in the date?

JOHN

Oh yeah? I swear it's not weird or anything.

DANA

Ha! I'm not so certain.

JOHN

This has a legitimate story behind it.

DANA

Is that so?

JOHN

It's a vis--

*ELLEN enters.*

ELLEN

How are you two doing over here?

*JOHN & DANA nod.*

DANA

Good.

JOHN

*Simultaneously.*

Great.

DANA

Can I get some more water when you get a chance?

ELLEN

Sure thing.

*ELLEN exits.*

JOHN

Back to the trusty mirror. It's a visual aid.

DANA

I'm nervous to ask what for?

*Pause. DANA leans over and whispers adorably.  
But what's it for?*

JOHN  
Look into the mirror.

DANA  
Uh, is this-

JOHN  
Just give it a shot. Trust me.

DANA  
Okay.

*Short pause.*  
Alright.

*DANA stares at herself awkwardly. She moves her gaze toward JOHN.*

JOHN  
Keep looking.

DANA  
Is this going somewhere?

*JOHN places the mirror on the table in front of DANA.*

JOHN  
Now touch the mirror with your finger.

DANA  
Uh.

*DANA haphazardly pokes the mirror with her pointer finger.*  
Like this?

JOHN  
Close.

*JOHN demonstrates how to touch the mirror by gently caressing and stroking the back of his hand with the pointer finger of his other hand.*  
Like this.

DANA  
I see.

*DANA repeats the action but this time with a gentler approach.*

JOHN  
You've got it. What did you feel when you did that?

DANA

*DANA Hesitates.*  
I felt my finger touch the mirror.

JOHN

*JOHN Nods.*  
Right. What do you think your reflection felt?

DANA

My reflection? Nothing. Is this some sort of metaphysical thing?

JOHN

Maybe. Let's just go with nothing. You said *nothing*. How about the people sitting around us who are probably staring by now?

DANA

Um. Still nothing?

JOHN

Great answer.

DANA

What's the gimmick?

*ELLEN enters. She places a glass of water on the table.*

ELLEN

Do you need anything else?

JOHN

Can I have some black coffee please?

ELLEN

You got it.

*ELLEN exits.*

JOHN

What about me?

DANA

Huh?

JOHN

What do I feel?

DANA

Still nothing?

JOHN

That's where you are wrong.

DANA

*JOHN finally puts the mirror back down on the table.*

How? What would you feel?

JOHN

I felt you touch that mirror the same way you felt it.

DANA

You mean you saw me touch it and you thought you touched it?

JOHN

Not exactly. You know that feeling whenever you watch someone get hurt your body tenses up or you get a chill down your spine?

DANA

Definitely.

JOHN

For me, that sense is heightened to the point where I feel what other people feel. If I can see someone, I can feel what they are going through.

*DANA is becoming increasingly skeptical.*

DANA

Are you serious?

JOHN

I am. It's called 'Mirror-Touch' Synesthesia.

DANA

That's a mouthful. Guess it explains your odd choice of a first-date prop.

JOHN

*JOHN laughs coyly.*

Are there many other first date props?

DANA

I did go a date with a guy who wore a fanny pack the entire night and never took it off or explained it.

JOHN

That's... unique. More of a bad outfit choice than a prop though.

DANA

Yes. But there probably are not many on good dates.

JOHN

You think this is going downhill?

DANA

No. Of course not. I just can't believe this. It's... it's some sort of super power.

JOHN

It's a double-edged sword.

DANA

I can't imagine.

JOHN

I feel everyone's pain, you know?

DANA

Like emotionally?

JOHN

Physically too.

DANA

Wow.

*ELLEN enters. She goes to put the coffee down on the table and instead knocks it onto herself. ELLEN and JOHN react in pain to the burn simultaneously and similarly.*

JOHN

*While still wincing, JOHN composes himself. He turns to ELLEN.*  
Are you okay?

ELLEN

I'll be fine. Excuse me. I need to get some ice on this.

*JOHN and DANA acknowledge ELLEN's statement as ELLEN exits.*

DANA  
Poor thing.

JOHN  
Yea.

DANA  
I should probably be asking if you are in pain.

JOHN  
I'll survive, as they say.

DANA  
That happens all the time?

JOHN  
Yes. But it has it advantages. I... I empathize with people really well. And I...

JOHN leans in to caress DANA's Hand.

Since I can feel what you feel, I can be a very passionate lover.

*Suddenly and violently DANA slams her head on down on the table. She punches herself in the face. Then she throws herself off her own chair. She tortures herself for as long as it takes. DANA suddenly stops. JOHN is overwhelmed and confused.*

JOHN  
Are you okay? What's wrong? What happened?

DANA  
  
*Calm as could be.*  
Nothing.

JOHN  
How was that nothing?

DANA  
I was testing your so-called synesthesia.

*JOHN attempts to interject but DANA quickly cuts him off and continues talking.*  
Apparently, you didn't feel any of my pain.

*DANA slaps JOHN across the face.*  
Did you feel that, asshole?

*DANA exits as the lights go out.*

END SCENE.