

TWELVE DATES OF CHRISTMAS**Audition Side #3**

Dinner and downtown party with David, a guy I've known for years who's just been dumped? Accept!

(Beat)

At dinner, David and I bond over our respective break-ups and the woes of Dating. We get drunk.

(Getting tipsy.)

David has never been funnier. I haven't laughed this hard since before Thanksgiving. Dessert? Of course! More champagne? Yes! Confetti? Tiara? You betcha!

(She puts on a tiara.)

Walking to the party, David puts arm around me. When we get to the party, his arm somehow stays around my shoulders and throughout the night, it casually moves to the small of my back. He's doing things like hanging my coat, fetching my drinks, brushing a strand of hair off my face.. .and I hazily notice people saying things like, "and how did you two meet?"

(Beat.)

I am very drunk. I am...speaking less to avoid slurring...and I am walking less.. .to avoid stumbling. And still.. .in my stupor, I land on one single crystalline fact of this matter:

(Poor attempt at a whisper.)

I am on a date that I didn't know was a date!

(Whisper" is gone.)

And guess what? There's only one minute 'til midnight! Kiss or don't kiss? C'mon, kiss or don't kiss?

(Waits.)

Alright, alright, alright! Now let's break this down for a minute: if I don't kiss, it'll be a grossly obvious evasion. If I do kiss, well, what does that mean? We're friends! (MARY starts the countdown, perhaps with the help of the audience. The angel and devil in her battle it out Devil goes first.) Ten: Kiss 'im, it's New Year's Eve. Nine: No, no, get some fresh air! Eight: Kiss 'im, whatthefuck!? Seven: No, you'll ruin the friendship. Six: Kiss him AND take him home. Five: You'll regret this. Four: You deserve this. Three: No! Two: yes! One... Happy New Year!

I kiss David. And it is all wrong! We are sloppy and uncoordinated and I instantly start imagining the quickest routes home...

MARY. And as I pull away from the embrace, David says:

DAVID. I have been waiting for that for as long as I've known you.

MARY. (*To audience:*) I will spare you the awkward dialogue that followed.