



TAPAS – A SAMPLER OF SHORTS

by Vivian C Lermond

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TAPAS - A SAMPLER OF SHORTS

TAPAS - A tasty sampler of 10 short plays guaranteed to tingle your theatrical taste buds with a full-flavored evening of delicious fun!

SPEED DATING IN PARADISE: 2m. 2f. -- When his roommate Lucifer takes him to a speed dating venue, what is the likelihood that Adam could meet his Eve?

DOUBLE EDGED SWORD: 1m. 1f. -- Suspicion and jealousy get in the way, thwarting romance in a big way.

ALICE IN THERAPY: 1f. 1m. -- When her recurring nightmare persists, one young woman seeks help from a certain Doctor Freud in the hopes of putting her dream demons to rest.

A BIT OF HAVOC AT HENNESSEY'S: 1m. -- A bellicose bully meets his match, who just happens to be his ex-wife, and more than sparks fly.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE: 2f. -- Her estranged husband leaves her in financial crosshairs, and a woman takes on a temporary roommate to help with expenses, at a cost she would never have imagined.

CALL IT KARMA: 2f. 1m. -- When Karma comes calling, Fate has a way of righting old wrongs.

TAKE AWAY: 2f. 1m.-- A dose of mother/daughter conflict is on the take away menu, but sometimes, memories and a message of hope can change things.

TAPAS - CONT'D.

V-DAY: 2f. 1m. -- A disgruntled wife discovers that the man she married still has what it takes to rev up a romance.

TWISTED DICKENS: 2f. 1m. -- A modern take on a classic tale finds one lad with "Great Expectations" about to get more than he bargained for.

SPECIAL DELIVERY, SIGNATURE REQUIRED: 2f. 1m. - The glowing embers from a once hot romance die, and one man must come up with a dead-on solution to breaking off a romance gone cold.

Speed Dating In Paradise

A

Short Play

By

Vivian C. Lermond

An original work

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Adam 20's, nerdy
Eve 20's, assertive, talkative
Luce 20's, slick
Jane 20's, plain, simple

TIME

The present

PLACE

A restaurant, site of the Paradise Speed Dating venue

SETTING: A restaurant, featuring a table and two chairs. A sign on an easel outside the building announces the event: *WELCOME TO PARADISE SPEED DATING.*

AT RISE: ADAM and LUCE approach the restaurant. Adam sees the sign, re-acts.

ADAM
Speed dating! No! Absolutely no!

LUCE
Adam, Adam! A man can't live on cheap beer and re-runs of *I Dream of Jeannie!* You need to find a woman!

ADAM
Speed dating is demoralizing!

LUCE
Forget your damn morals and let it all hang loose!

ADAM
No.

LUCE
Hey! I already paid for your ticket.

(Luce hands off the ticket.)

ADAM
You take the ticket. This place is right up your alley.

LUCE
Me? I'm not the one who can't find a woman. (Beat) Hey, it's not like you're on a highway to hell. Read the sign. Paradise! Come on. Have some fun. Meet some girls!

(Luce propels him toward the table.)

ADAM
I'm not over Grace.

LUCE
Forget about Grace. You don't need Grace. You need sex!

(Adam shoves the ticket back at Luce.)

ADAM
I'm out of here!

(A bell CLANGS.)

LUCE

Too late! There's the bell! Three minute rounds.
Talk fast. Work it!

*(He shoves Adam into a chair,
slaps a name tag on
Adam's shirt. JANE approaches
the table, sits, gives Luce
a look of appreciation. Luce
moves off.)*

ADAM

Wait! Where on you going?

LUCE

See you later.

(He EXITS.)

JANE

I'm Jane. I didn't really want to come.

ADAM

I'm Adam. I didn't want to come either.

JANE

Who's your friend?

ADAM

My roommate.

JANE

He's very attractive.

ADAM

He's a player.

JANE

Oh? What does he play?

ADAM

He plays woman for fools!

JANE

Ohooo ... A bad boy!

ADAM

I respect women.

JANE

I'm working on that.

ADAM

What?

JANE
Respecting myself. My therapist says I'm making progress.

ADAM
Therapist?

JANE
She is an angel! Are you seeing someone?

ADAM
I was. We broke up.

JANE
No, seeing a therapist.

ADAM
I believe in working through my own issues. (Beat) What do you do?

JANE
I'm between.

ADAM
Between what?

JANE
Where I am and where I'm going. I work at a coffee house and I'm writing a novel.

ADAM
Oh. I'm a --

JANE
-- Were you ever married?

ADAM
No, but I wanted to be.

JANE
I don't believe in long engagements. My biological clock is ticking and I want a big family.

ADAM
Children are a big responsibility.

JANE
You don't want children?

ADAM
Well I --

JANE
-- How could you not want children! Babies are adorable.

ADAM
I have a nephew. He's not adorable at all. I have a cat ... Mr. Mumps.

JANE
Oh dear! I am SO allergic to cat dander!

(The bell CLANGS.)

JANE
It was nice meeting you. Good luck!

ADAM
You too.
*(EVE ENTERS, takes her seat,
reads Adam's name tag.)*

EVE
Well hello Adam!

ADAM
(Reading her name tag.)
Hi Eve.

EVE
Adam and Eve. Funny. Aren't we supposed to hook up and jump-start the world?

ADAM
We're a little late for that mission.

EVE
A dry sense of humor. I like that. I also like a dry martini.

ADAM
I like a pint now and then.

EVE
To each, their own. *(Beat)* There's something familiar about you. Do you ever grab lunch at Ernie's Deli?

ADAM
Why yes!

EVE
You always get #4.

ADAM
I'm flattered you remember me. You're very observant. The Waldorf salad. I love apples.

EVE
I'm not a fan of apples. Had a bad experience with apples once. I'm all about the wedding soup ... super delish!

ADAM
I've never tried it.

EVE
The wedding or the soup?

Neither. ADAM

EVE
I take you for a solitary man. Not a big people person. You keep to yourself.

ADAM
I've been accused of that.

EVE
Me, I'm a classic extrovert. I love to talk. Never met a stranger.

ADAM
Books are my refuge.

EVE
But tonight, you're stepping out, braving reality over fiction.

ADAM
It wasn't my idea. My roommate Luce dragged me here.

EVE
Odd name, Luce.

ADAM
He's an odd guy.

EVE
So what do you want, really?

ADAM
The same thing you do, probably. Find the perfect mate and live happily ever after.

EVE
Nice dream. A fabulous fairy tale of biblical proportions.

ADAM
You're a bit of a pessimist then.

EVE
No. A realist. I have been described as clever, insightful. I'm not looking for magic.

ADAM
What are you looking for?

EVE
A guy who is solid and stable ... a partner ... dad material. I am determined to do my part in propagating the human race.

ADAM
I ... I don't know about the whole baby thing.