

DARN IT!

A Short Play

By Mike Folie

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DARN IT!

CHARACTERS:

GREG, middle management

CHERYL, works in Greg's department and reports to him.

MARION, Cheryl's attorney

BOB, Greg's attorney

The characters are all around the same age, which should be from early 30s to mid-40s.

SETTING:

GREG's office.

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AT RISE: GREG is sitting at a desk. CHERYL enters.

CHERYL

You wanted to see me, Greg?

GREG

Yes, Cheryl, I did. Sit down. Cheryl, we . . . we've worked together now -- what -- how long is it?

CHERYL

Must be two years.

GREG

Two years. Right. Two years, four months . . .

CHERYL

And seven days.

(Pause. THEY stare into each OTHER's eyes.)

GREG

(Recovering)

Yes. And, uh, in all that time, I've never said anything to you that was improper or . . . or sexually suggestive, have I?

CHERYL

Of course not! Oh, Greg, there has never been a hint of anything improper in your behavior towards me. Ever.

(Pause, SHE gives a short laugh then says)

Darn it!

GREG

Wh-what do you mean, "Darn it?"

CHERYL

Oh, nothing! It's just that . . . well . . . Every woman in the department has a crush on you.

GREG

But I'm not interested in every woman in the department, Cheryl. I'm only interested in . . . in you.

CHERYL

Really, Greg?

GREG

I've wanted to ask you out for some time now, but, well . . . you know. We work together. I'm your superior. A romantic relationship could be risky for both our careers.

CHERYL

What are you saying?

GREG

I'm saying -- to hell with the consequences! My feelings for you are too strong, Cheryl!

CHERYL

Oh, Greg! I feel the same way, (I . . .)

GREG

There is just one thing though. Before I officially ask you out, I wonder if you'd be willing to sign a short pre-dating agreement?

(HE calls off-stage)

Bob!?

(BOB enters with a legal document)

Cheryl, this is Bob Willis, my attorney.

BOB

Hi, Cheryl. Look, before Greg makes a formal request for a date, I wonder if you would mind just signing this document.

CHERYL

What is this?

BOB

It's your very basic pre-dating agreement. It's for your protection, too, Cheryl.

GREG

I . . . I hope you're not offended, Cheryl. Bob thinks . .

CHERYL

Of course not, Greg. In fact, knowing this might happen, I've taken the precaution of having my attorney at work for the past few days as well.

(SHE calls off-stage)

Marion!? You're on!

(MARION enters with briefcase)

MARION

Hi, hi, hi. Marion Barnes. Krepshaw, Stein and Smith.

BOB

Bob Willis, Morton and Feingold.

(The LAWYERS exchange cards)

MARION

I hope you gentlemen are not threatened by my presence.

BOB

Not at all. Would you like a few minutes to read the document?

MARION

We've read it. Greg's secretary leaked it to us. Bob, I'm a little concerned with this document.

BOB

Oh, this is just a preliminary agreement, Marion, involving first date only. There's no reason to . . .

MARION

Oh, don't be naive, Bob. Even one date, even one date absent sexual congress could severely jeopardize my client's career at this company.

BOB

May I point out, Marion, that my client is taking an even greater risk.

MARION

Hardly! She is a woman! And his subordinate.

BOB

Yes! And what's to prevent her from screaming "sexual harassment!" the first time she gets into some female snit (about something?!)

MARION

Come on, Cheryl. We're leaving.

GREG

Don't leave. Cheryl?

BOB

Shut up, Greg.

CHERYL

Marion?

MARION

(To CHERYL)

Shhhh!

(To BOB)

Allow me to point out, counselor, that it is your client alone who desires this new, more personal relationship.

BOB

Oh, really? Then why did she say "darn it!" when agreeing that my client had never made any sexual advances in the past?

MARION

(To CHERYL, vexed)

Did you say "darn it?"

BOB

I have it on tape.

GREG

This is getting a little out of hand.

BOB

Quiet, Greg.

MARION

(To GREG)

You stay out of this!

BOB

What exactly does your side want?

MARION

We'd like a few addenda to this pre-dating agreement. For example, what level of sexual performance can my client expect?

CHERYL

Marion!

BOB

Sexual activity is not covered in this preliminary document!

MARION

Oh, don't jerk me around, Bob! He wants to get into her pants! What else is this all about?!

GREG

Cheryl, it's . . . it's not just about sex.

CHERYL

I know that, Greg.

BOB

Are you saying then, Marion, that in exchange for certain provisions added to this agreement, your client will guarantee the granting of sexual favors? Is your client, in fact, a prostitute, Marion?

GREG

Bob! That's enough! Cheryl . . .

BOB

Are you saying that all your client brings to the table is free access to her orifices?

MARION

One orifice only!

BOB

Two, damnit! Or we're outta here!

MARION

Vaginal and oral only. And oral only at the election of my client.

BOB

Now we're getting somewhere.

(The LAWYERS make pen changes on the document)

GREG

I would never want to hurt you, Cheryl, I just . . .

CHERYL

Me either, Greg. I . . . I love you.

(GREG and CHERYL look into each others' eyes)

MARION

My client must reach orgasm at least once during each sexual episode.

GREG

And I love you, too, Cheryl.

BOB

I'd be more comfortable limiting that to "best efforts" language.

MARION

I'm sure you would.

BOB

How do we know your client isn't sexually frigid?

GREG

Bob?

BOB

My client would then be contractually obligated to pump away forever in pursuit of an impossible goal.

GREG

Bob. Shut up! You're fired.

BOB

What?

CHERYL

Yes. You, too, Marion. We've decided to proceed without counsel.

MARION

Oh, I would strongly recommend against that, Cheryl.

CHERYL

Greg?

GREG

Let's get out of here.

(CHERYL and GREG exit. Pause)

MARION

The fools.

BOB

They never learn, do they?

MARION

Well. It's been enjoyable.

BOB

I find myself with some unexpected free time on my hands. Would you care to join me for lunch?

MARION

Is that a professional invitation? Or is it your intention to use the occasion of lunch to explore the possibility of a more personal relationship?

BOB

(Smiling)

My interest is purely professional.

MARION

(Smiles back)

Darn it.

(THEY exit together. Blackout)