

The Love Hypothesis

By Cecily Dicken, Charlotte Richards, Lexie Bradshaw and Matilda Sarsfield

Olive, a young woman majoring in science, accidentally gets herself into a fake relationship with a hated professor. She is in search of a research grant, and when someone seems interested in funding, the relationship that seems a little too good to be fake might just end.

Bathroom scene

Adam

Out of curiosity, is there a specific reason you're crying in my restroom?

Olive

I— is this the ladies room?

Adam

Nope.

Olive

Are you sure?

Adam

Fairly, since this is my lab's bathroom

Olive

Im so sorry, do you need-

Adam

I just need to pour this reagent down the drain,

(He does)

Are you okay?

Olive

Sure, why do you ask?

Adam

Because you're crying. In my bathroom.

Olive

Oh i'm not crying, it's just tears, you know

Adam

I do not.

Olive

It's my contacts. They expired some time ago, they were never that great to begin with, I've taken them off but it takes a while before they get better.

Adam

You put in expired contacts?

Olive

Just a little expired.

Adam

What's 'a little'?

Olive

I don't know, a few years?

Adam

What.

Olive

It's fine, the burning only last a few minutes

Adam

You've done this before

Olive

contacts aren't cheap

Adam

Neither are eyes.

Olive

I'm olive by the way. Like the tree.

Hey, have we met? maybe last night, at the recruitment dinner with prospective phd students?

Adam

No.

Olive

You weren't there?

Adam

Not really my scene.

Not worth the small talk.

(Pause)

What about you are you interviewing for a spot on the program?

Olive

Yup.

(Press palms into eyes)

How long have you been here?

Adam

About six years.

Olive

Oh. Are you graduating soon?

Oh wait dont tell me. First rule of grad school— dont ask about another grads dissertation timeline.

Adam

Right.

Olive

Listen, if you happen to talk with anyone who's on the admissions committee, would you mind not mentioning the contacts? It might make me a less than stellar applicant.

Adam

Are you planning to enroll?

Olive

Maybe,

what if I'm not good enough?

Adam

Why do you want to get a phd? What's your reason?

Olive

I want to sharpen my research abilities—

Adam

Is it because you didn't get an industry position?

Olive

I didn't even apply, i need more freedom than that

Adam

You won't get much freedom in academia.

Olive

Are you trying to get me to decline my offer?

Adam

Nah. Here's the deal, I have no idea if you're good enough. What matters is whether your reason to be in academia is good enough. So, olive?

Olive

I have a question. Something I'm afraid no one will discover if I don't. It's important to me and I don't trust anyone else to do it.

It's important to me. The research I want to do.

(He nodded and took a few steps to the door)

Is mine a good enough reason?

Adam

It's the best one.

Hallway Scene

{Scene INT: Dark corridor, outside of the labs. Light of the vending machine lights the corridor. Adam exits his office. Olive enters, running from around the corner and runs up to him}

Olive:

Can I please kiss you?

{She kisses him. Anh enters from around the corner and sees the two of them kissing and quickly exits again. Olive and Adam stop kissing}

ADAM:

Did you just... kiss me?

OLIVE:

No

ADAM :

Ah okay then

{walks away. Stops.}

Are you sure about that

OLIVE:

It's not what it looks like

ADAM:

Right. So I'll just go back to my office and finish writing up my Title IX report then?

OLIVE:

Yeah that'd be great (pause) Hang on what.

Adam:

Title IX is a federal law that protects Against sexual misconduct within academic settings— —

Olive:

Yes I know what a Title IX is

Adam:

I see. The kiss then, explain?

Olive:

Anh. The girl who passed by earlier, well I was seeing this guy Jeremy. Red hair? Works with Dr- right. Not important. We went out a couple times and then he met Anh and they kinda hit it off and yeah

Adam:

And...?

Olive:

Jeremy asked Anh out and she said no. for me. But I can tell she really likes him and i told her it was fine but she doesnt want to hurt my feelings even though I said it was fine

Adam:

How does that relate to... this

Olive:

I lied and told her I was dating someone else! Ive never seen her like this before and I just want her to be happy and shed do the same for me- Shit you probably dont care about that basically I said id be on a date tonight

Adam:

Ah

Olive:

Yeah. I came into work to catch up on stuff and she was here and she wasn't meant to be.

Adam:

So you kissed the first person you saw in the hallway. Perfectly logical.

Olive:

Perhaps it wasn't my best idea

Adam:

Perhaps

Olive:

Well it wasn't my worst idea either. Now Anh thinks I was on a date and she can date jeremy

Adam:

You kissed me

Olive:

I am so sorry about that

Adam:

Are you?

Olive:

Please don't report me, I really thought you said... Oh my god. You are absolutely right if you have felt in any way harassed by me you really should report me that was a horrible thing to do I- I'm going to leave now.

Olive runs away and exits

Adam:

Olive! Olive wait!

Emails between her and Tom

Today,3:15

FROM:Tom-Benton@harvard.edu

TO:Olive-smith@stanford.edu

SUBJECT: Re:Pancreatic Cancer Screening Project

Olive,

Your project sounds good. I'll be visiting Stanford about in two weeks. Why don't we chat then?

Cheers,

TB

Tom Benton, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Department of Biological Sciences, Harvard University

July 7, 8:19 a.m.

FROM: Olive-Smith@stanford.edu

TO: Tom-Benton@harvard.edu

SUBJECT: Pancreatic Cancer Screening Project

Dr. Benton,

My name is Olive Smith, and I am a Ph.D. student in the biology department of Stanford University. My research focuses on pancreatic cancer, in particular on finding noninvasive, affordable detection tools that could lead to early treatment and increase survival rates. I have been working on blood biomarkers, with promising results. (You can read about my preliminary work in the peer-reviewed paper I have attached. I have also

submitted more recent, unpublished findings to this year's Society for Biological Discovery conference; acceptance is pending but see the attached abstract.) The next step would be to carry out additional studies to determine the feasibility of my test kit. Unfortunately my current lab (Dr. Aysegul Aslan's, who is retiring in two years) does not have the funding or the equipment to allow me to proceed. She is encouraging me to find a larger cancer research lab where I could spend the next academic year to collect the data I need. Then I would return to Stanford to analyze and write up the data. I

am a huge fan of the work you have published on pancreatic cancer, and I was wondering whether there might be a possibility to carry out my work in your lab at Harvard.

I am happy to talk more in detail about my project if you are interested.

Sincerely,

Olive

Olive Smith

Ph.D. Candidate

Biology Department, Stanford University

Today, 10:12 a.m.

FROM: Olive-Smith@stanford.edu

TO: Tom-Benton@harvard.edu

SUBJECT: Re: Pancreatic Cancer Screening Project

Dr. Benton,

Thank you for your response. Chatting in person would be fantastic. What day will you be at Stanford? Let me know when it's most convenient for you to meet.

Sincerely,

Olive

Today, 10:26 a.m.

FROM: Tom-Benton@harvard.edu

TO: Olive-Smith@stanford.edu

SUBJECT: Re: Pancreatic Cancer Screening Project

Olive,

I'm on sabbatical from Harvard this semester, so I'll be staying for several days. A Stanford collaborator and I were just awarded a large grant, and we'll be meeting to talk about setup, etc. Okay if we play it by ear once I'm there?

Cheers,

TB

Sent from my iPhone

SATURDAY, 6:34 p.m.

FROM: Olive-Smith@stanford.edu

TO: Tom-Benton@harvard.edu

SUBJECT: Re: Report on Pancreatic Cancer Study

Hi Tom,

Here is the report you asked for, with a detailed description of what I have done so far, as well as my thoughts on future directions and the resources I will need to expand. I'm

excited to hear your thoughts on my work!

Sincerely,

Olive

SATURDAY, 6:35 p.m.

FROM: Olive-Smith@stanford.edu

TO: Tom-Benton@harvard.edu

SUBJECT: Re: Report on Pancreatic Cancer Study

Hi Tom,

Oops, forgot the attachment.

Sincerely,

Olive

Today, 3:20 p.m.

TO: Olive-Smith@stanford.edu

FROM: Tom-Benton@harvard.edu

SUBJECT: Re: Report on Pancreatic Cancer Study

Olive,

Done reading the report. Do you think you could come over to Adam's to chat about it?

Maybe tomorrow morning (Tue) at nine? Adam and I will be leaving for Boston on Wed
afternoon.

TB

Going through reports at Adama house

(Texting)

Olive: Tom just invited me to your place to talk about the report I sent him. Would it be ok if I came over?

Adam: Of course. When?

Olive: Tomorrow at 9 a.m. Will you be home?

Adam: Probably. There are no bike lanes to my house. Do you need a ride? I can pick you up.

Olive: My roommate can drive me, but thanks for offering.

The next day

Adam:

Did you find the house alright?

Olive:

Yep, just fine!

Tom:

Thanks for coming Olive. I wasn't sure I'd have time to go off campus before leaving. Sit down, please

Can you clarify a couple things for me. To make sure I understand your protocols correctly.

20 minutes later

Adam:

Whenever you guys are done i'll give you a ride back to campus Olive. I need to drive in, anyway

Tom

We're done she's all yours

Adam:

You ready to go?

Olive:

Sure

Bye Tom. It was nice to meet you. Have a safe trip home.

Tom:

Likewise.

I had a lot of interesting conversations.

Olive:

Yeah..

Tom:

And Olive

Olive:

Yes?

Tom:

I'll see you at Harvard next year, right?

I have a perfect bench seat set aside for you

Olive:

I can't wait

Thank you so much!

Adam:

You all done?

Congratulations

Olive:

He'll take me. He said he'll take me

Adam:

He'd be a idiot not to

I knew he would

Olive:

Had he told you?

Yup knew and didn't tell even tell me— —

Adam:

He Hadn't. We haven't discussed you

Olive:

Oh. Why?

Adam:

Unspoken agreement. It might be a conflict of interest

Olive:

Right

The rules for fake dating

[INT, ADAMS OFFICE]

{Olive knocks on the door}

Adam:

Come in

{Olive opens door}

Adam (continued):

My office hours were over five minutes ago, so-

Olive:

It's me

{ADAM stops what he's doing}

Adam:

Olive.

{pause}

I was going to email you. I talked to the dean earlier today.

{Adam gestures to a chair}

About you. Well us. And socialisation regulations.

Olive:

What did she say?

Adam:

Well there's nothing against you and i dating, since im not your advisor

Pause

Although there are some issues, i wont be able to collaborate with you in a formal capacity. {And im part of the award committee line(feels like it doesn't have to be here check book)} and i absolutely cannot be apart of your thesis committee.

Olive:

{laughs}

That wont be a problem. I wasnt going to ask you.

Adam:

Why not? You study pancreatic cancer, right? Then your work would benefit my perspective as a computational modulator.

Olive:

Yeah, but there are other computational modulators and I'd really like to graduate without crying in the bathroom after every committee.

{he glares}

No offence. I'm a simple girl.

{pause}

Adam:

So have you decided

Olive:

Yes. Yes, I... i want to do it. It's a good idea actually.

Adam:

Very well then.

Olive:

Though I've been thinking about this a lot

{pause}

And i think it'd be best if we set some ground rules

Adam:

Ground rules?

Olive:

Yes. You know, what we can and can't do. What we expect from this arrangement. I think it's a pretty standard protocol before taking on a fake-dating relationship.

Adam:

Standard protocol?

Olive:

Yup.

Adam:

How many times have you done this?

Olive:

Zero but i am familiar with the trope

Adam:

...what?

Olive:

Okay. First of all, this should be strictly on campus agreement. Not that i think you'd want to meet me off campus, but just in case you were planning to kill two birds with one stone im not going to be your backup if you need to bring home a date for Christmas or-

Adam:

My family is more likely to celebrate Hanukkah than Christmas. Though i'm unlikely to celebrate either

Olive:

Oh. I guess that's something your fake girlfriend should know.

{pause}

Ok second rule. Actually it could be interpreted as an extension of the first rule. but- no sex.

{very long pause}

Listen sorry if one of the reasons you thought we should-

Adam:

NO. I'm shock you even felt you needed to bring it up.

Olive:

Oh. I'm sorry I didn't mean to assume-

Adam:

No it makes sense to be upfront. Just surprised.

Olive:

Sorry.

Adam:

It's okay.

No sex.

Olive:

No sex.

{Pause}

Okay. third. It's not really a rule but: I wont date anyone else. As in real dating. It would be messy and complicated and...

{Pause}

I don't date, anyway. Jeremy was an exception. I've never seriously dated before, and its probably for the best. Grad school is stressful enough, and I have my friends and my project and honestly theres better things to use my time for.

{Pause}

But you can date, of course. Though id appreciate It if you Could avoid telling people in the Department. Just so i dont look like an idiot and you to look like youre cheating on me. And it would benifit the idea of a committed relationship.

Adam:

I wont.

Olive:

Okay. Great. I know that lying by omission can be a pain, but-

Adam:

I mean, i wont date anyone else.

Olive:

But- okay... Fourth. We can't do this forever, so we should give each other a deadline.

Adam:

What would they be?

Olive:

Im not sure. A month or so would probably be enough to convince Anh that im over Jeremy but that might not be enough on your end so you tell me.

Adam:

September twenty-ninth

Olive:

That's an oddly specific date

Adam:

It's the day after the department final budget review. If they don't release them by then they won't release them at all.

Olive:

I see. Well then. On September twenty-ninth we part ways. I'll tell Anh that our breakup was amicable but I'm a little sad about it. So that she doesn't think that I'm still hung up on Jeremy.

{pause}

Fifth and last.

{pause}

For this to work we should probably... do things together every once and a while.

Adam:

Things?

Olive:

Things. Stuff.

{pause}

Yep. Stuff. What do you do for fun?

Adam:

Fun?

Olive:

Yeah. What do you do when you're not at work?

{pause}

Adam:

I work from home too, i work out...

{pause}

Fine, what do you do for fun.

Olive:

Plenty of things, i- um i work out.

{pause}

Whatever we should do something together on a regular basis. I don't know. to get coffee? Like once a week? It would make it more credible-

Adam:

Sure.

Olive:

Oh. How about Wednesday? Ten?

Adam:

Tens good.

Olive:

Ok great. Aren't you going to write it down.

{signalling towards his calendar}

Adam:

I'll remember.

Olive:

Okay then. fake dating Wednesday it is.

Adam:

When do you want to start

Olive:

How about next week?

Adam

Sounds good.

Olive

Lets meet at the Starbucks on campus. Most of the grads go there to get coffee- someone will spot us.

{pause}

{gets up to leave}

I guess I'll see you next Wednesday for fake dating, then?

Adam

See you, olive.

The first Starbucks date

(Olive comes in and stands next to Adam in line)

Olive

So how are you?

Adam

Fine, you

Olive

Fine.

So— what's your favourite colour?

Adam

What?

Olive

Your favourite colour.

Adam

I don't know?

Olive

What do you mean, you don't know?

Adam

They're colours, they're all the same.

Olive

There must be one you like the most. Red? Yellow? Vomit green?

Adam

Why are you asking?

Olive

It feels like something I should know. Like if someone was to try and figure out if i was really dating you - top five for sure.

Adam

Okay, black I guess

Olive

(Snorts) that's not even a colour, it's no colour technically.

Adam

It's better than vomit green

Olive

No it is not.

(They're at the front of the queue now, ordering)

Adam

Coffee, black

Olive

{i dont know Starbucks i really hate the place gives me just ughhh- no. do you know any really sugary drinks with extra whipped cream please write her it wasnt specified)

Oh, no no you cant pay for my stuff

Adam

I cant?

Olive

Nope, i would never fake date someone who thinks they have to buy me food just because he's a dude.

Adam

It's not about my being a 'dude' but you being a grad student and your yearly income

(Olive paused before grabbing a cookie, a pack of gum and a banana and putting them on the till before Adam pays and the go stand to collect their drinks)

Olive

Where were you born?

Adam

Is this another one of your green card marriage questions?

Netherlands. The Hague.

Olive

Oh, i expected New York or maybe Kansas

Adam

My mother used to be an ambassador to the Netherlands

Olive

Wow.

(The drinks arrived and they both picked them up and moved outside the coffee shop)

Well this was fun.

Adam

Is fake dating Wednesday over?

Olive

Yep great job team, now hit the showers you're free until next week

I'll see you—

Adam

Where were you born?

Olive

Toronto.

Adam

When did you move here?

Olive

Eight years ago for college

Adam

Why did you move her Canada has excellent schools

Olive

I got a full ride.

Adam

Do you go back a lot?

Olive

Not really no.

(Adam nodded)

Adam

Favourite colour

Olive

I—

Adam

It's difficult, isn't it?

Olive

Dammit. Wait, I'm going to go with light blue. No, wait! Lets sa white. Okay white.

Adam

(Clicked his tongue)

You know I don't think I can accept that. Whites not really a colour, it's more like all the colours put together.

(Olive pinched him on the arm)

Ow

(He waved goodbye and started heading towards th biology building)

Olive

Hey, Adam?

(He looked back at her)

Thanks for buying me, three days worth of food.

Adam

My pleasure, Olive.

Meeting Tom

Scene int: outside starbucks, adam and Olive stand by tables, man enters and approaches them

Tom:

Hey!

Adam:

I thought you would

sleep in

Tom:

Time difference, figured id grab something to eat and get to campus do some work - you have no food at yours

Adam:

There are apples in the kitchen?

Tom:

Right. No food. Whos this?

Adam:

This is Olive, Olive this is my collaborator-

Tom:

Introduce me as your friend at least dude

Adam:

Olive this is my friend and collaborator. Dr Tom Benton

Tom:

Hang on... do you happen to be?

Olive:

Hi, I'm olive Smith the-

Tom:

The girlfriend ive heard so much about!

Olive:

Um... actually I-

Adam:

Heard from who?

Tom:

Everyone

Adam:

Everyone? Why are people in Harvard talking about my girlfriend

Tom:

Well because you're you, don't worry. They'll get over it with only a few broken hearts, tears and some hair pulling the usual. It's very nice to meet you Olive, I had written off the whole girlfriend thing as rumours but I'm glad you exist

Which department do you teach olive?

Olive

Oh I don't actually- teach.

Tom

Oh sorry to assume, are you a fellow researcher?

Olive

Uhm

Adam

She's a student.

A graduate student.

Tom

Your graduate student?

Adam

No of course not-

Olive

Actually, Dr Benton, I work with DR. Aslan.

You probably don't recognise my name, but we've corresponded. We're meant to meet today. I'm the student who's working on pancreatic cancer biomarkers. The one who's asked to come work in your lab for a year.

Tom

What the hell.

Adam, you didn't even tell me

Adam

I didn't know

Olive

I didn't tell adm because i didn't think you were friends

I didn't realise you were the same tom he always talked about. Sorry dr. Benton, i didn't-

Tom

Tom, please call me, tom

(He pointed at the the coffee shop)

Are you free? Why don't we go talk about your project now?

Olive

I'm free.

Tom

Great. Adam?

Adam

I don't think you should be there whilst you interview her—

Tom

Oh, it's not an interview. Just a chat to see if our research matches, you'll want to know if your girlfriend is moving to boston for a year, right? come on.

(He started walking and Adam and olive pass a look between them before going into the shop and sitting down)

So, olive tell me about your project. What's cool about it?

Olive

I... so it's— um...

Adam

What kind of a question is that

(Tom shrugged)

What's cool about your project?

Tom

Yeah. Cool. You know what i Mean.

Adam

I don't think I do.

Tom

Fine, what would you ask?

Adam

What issues does your project target? Why do you think it's significant? What gaps does it fill? What techniques are you using? What challenges do you foresee?

Tom

Right, sure consider all those long boring questions

Olive

Okay, pancreatic cancer is not only very aggressive and deadly but it has a very poor prognosis, with only one out of four people alive a year after prognosis, but if diagnosis was faster—

Tom

People could get treatment sooner and have a higher chance of survival, im aware, but we already have some screening tools such as imaging

Olive

Yes, but that's expensive, time consuming, and often not useful because of the pancreas's position. But I think I have found a set of blood biomarkers. Non-invasive, easy to obtain. Cheap. In mice they can detect pancreatic cancer as early as stage one.

Tom

Ok this sounds promising, what's next?

Olive

Data collecting, more analyses with better equipment to prove its worth a clinical trial. But for that I'd need a bigger lab.

Tom

I see.

Why pancreatic cancer? Did someone close to you have cancer?

Olive

Yes.

Tom

Who?

Adam

Tom.

Olive

My mother.

Tom

Did she die?

(Olive nods)

How old were you—

Adam

Tom, stop harassing my girlfriend.

Tom

Right, yes.

Okay, olive. tell you what. I've read your paper and the abstract you submitted to the SBD conference. Are you still planning to go?

Olive

If it's accepted

Tom

I'm sure it will be, it's excellent work. But it sounds like your research has progressed since then and I need to know more about it. If I decide that you can work in my lab next year I will cover you completely - whatever you need. But I need to know that you're worth investing in.

I'm going to give you two weeks to write up a report on everything you have been doing so far, in two weeks send me the report and I'll make a decision based on it. Does that sound feasible?

Olive

Yes!

Tom

Great, in the meantime, I'll see you around, are you coming to my talk tomorrow?

Olive

Of course! Can't wait!

Tom

Oh and im staying at adams so you'll see me around

Olive

Um... sure. Though we usually meet at mine, so...

Tom

I see. Excuse me. I'll just get some coffee and be right back.

(Tom left. Adam took his arm from around olives shoulder)

Olive

I'm sorry I didn't realise he was your friend or that you had a grant together the possibility never even crossed my mind.

Adam

You did mention that you don't believe cancer researchers can benefit from computational modulators

Olive

You—

how do you know each other

Adam

He was a postdoc in my lab, we kept in touch and collaborated through the years.

Olive

What if he feels obligated to take me on because I'm your fake girlfriend?

Adam

Tom won't. He once fired his cousin, he's not exactly tender hearted.

Olive

Look i'm sorry for forcing you to lie to your friend, if you want to tell him-

Adam

If I did, I'd never live it down.

But, olive, if you do end up deciding to go to Harvard could you keep it a secret until the end of September.

Olive

Of course, I never even thought of it. I promise i won't tell anyone except well Anh and Malcolm but they'd never—

I'll make them keep this a secret.

Adam

I appreciate it.

(Tom starts heading back to the table)

Olive

One more thing. The talk he mentioned?

Adam

The one you 'can't wait' for?

Olive

Yes. When and where is it?

Adam

Don't worry, I'll email you the details.

Lap scene

Anh

I think they made this talk mandatory for immunology and pharmacology

Olive

You don't have to stay. This is probably a fire hazard and not even remotely relevant to your research.

Anh

Beats doing real work.

(Anh grabbed olive's wrist and pulled her through the crowd)

Plus I want to make sure he deserves to have you for a year.

(Olive spotted Adam and waved at him, he smiled back)

There is not nearly enough space- oh no. No, no, no, no.

Olive

(A crowd of at least twenty more people arrived and they both got pushed forwards)

This is ridiculous

(Olive bashed into adams shoulder)

Holden

Why are we even here

Adam

Because he's my friend

Holden

Not my friend.

Olive

Hey— sorry a bunch of new people just came in and apparently the space in this room is finite.

Adam

It's okay

Olive

I'd step back but—

Adam

Here, take my seat.

Olive

Oh—

Anh

Actually that's a terrible idea. No offence dr. Carlson, but you're three times larger than olive. If you stand the room will burst.

But it'd be great, if you could sit on your boyfriend's lap Ol. Just so that I don't have to stand on my toes?

Olive

Anh, i can't.

Anh

Why?

Olive

Because. This is a scientific talk.

Anh

Psh. Remember last year when jess and alex made out for half that lecture

Olive

I do- it was weird

Anh

No, it wasn't and Malcolm swears that during a seminar he saw that tall guy from immunology get a hand job from—

Olive

Anh.

Anh

The point is no one cares. And this girls elbow is puncturing my lung.

Olive

(Olive gave Adam a pleading look who nodded at her to say it was ok before sitting on his lap)

Im sorry, so so sorry

Adam

It's okay

Olive

I didn't know she would suggest something like this—

Adam

It's fine. More material for my Title IX complaint.

(He slid an arm around her waist)

Olive

God, i'm so sorry—

Adam

Olive, i was kidding, you weigh nothing just focus on the talk, tom might ask you questions about it.

(Olive slid down at one point and adam lifted her back up)

Don't fall asleep

Olive

I'm not. Though you're so comfy.

Adam

You look like you're about to take a nap.

Olive

It's just i already know what he's saying,

Adam

Yeah, same. This is dull.

Olive

Maybe you should answer a question, I'm sure you can make something up. Just raise your hand and make a mean observation with that tone of yours. It might devolve into an entertaining outbreak of fisticuffs.

Adam

You're such a smart-ass

Olive

Has it been weird having to lie about us?

Adam

No. It looks like your friends are buying that we're together.

Olive

I think so, im not exactly a convincing liar so i worry Anh might get suspicious. But i walked in on her and Jeremy making out in the grad lounge the other day

I have to admit this is working out well for me, this whole fake dating thing

Is it working for you? Or maybe you want to fake-breakup early

Adam

No. I don't want to fake-breakup.

Picnic scene

Anh

Holy shit

Olive

What?

Anh

Is that Carlsen?

Olive

What? where?

(She turned to see him shirtless playing ultimate frisbee)

Anh

Is that a eight pack? Are those his real shoulders? Did he have shoulder enhancement surgery?

Malcolm

God, is that Carlsen's chest? Was that thing under his shirt whilst he was ripping my dissertation a new one? Ol why didnt you tell me he was shredded?

Anh

Unbelievable

(She grabbed olive hand and squirted a good amount of sunbeam into it)

Here, put this on your shoulders. And legs. And your face, too— you're probably at risk for all sorts of skin stuff freckles mc freckleface.

Wait, are there links between freckles and skin cancer?

(She began to research on her phone)

Hear this: solar lentigines had weak but positive associations with basal cell carcinoma, with odds around 1.5. Okay i dont like this. Im giving you more sunscreen. Here spf 50 that's probably what you need.

Olive

wait i already put some on

Anh

Oi, you know the literature

Olive

No i dont and neither do you you read one line from a abstract—

(Anh poured a tonne of sunscreen into olives hands)

Anh

Here you go, now you can protect yourself from basal skin carcinoma.

Olive

I— i hate suncream. It's sticky and makes you smell like pina colada and this is way too much.

Anh

Just put on as much as your skin will absorb. The rest you can share with someone..

Olive

Okay Anh, then you take some

Anh

I already put on a ton.

Olive

What do I do with this?

Anh

God Ol, hang on—

(Waved at adam)

Hey dr. Carlsen! Have you put on suncream yet?

Adam

No

Anh

Perfect then, olive has way too much she'll put some on you!

Adam

I'm taking five!

(To olive)

Hey

Olive

Hey. Can you turn around?

Can you, duck a bit?

So now might be a good time to mention how sorry i am we keep getting in these situations

Adam

It's fine. It's not your fault

Olive

Are you ok?

Adam

Yep.

Olive

On a scale of correlation to causation how much do you hate this?

Adam

I dont hate it. And its not your fault

Olive

Because i know this is the worst possible thing and—

Adam

It isnt, olive. these things are going to keep happening.

Olive

Right.

Adam

Mostly because you hang out with some really nosy people.

Olive

I know, believe me , i'm really regretting befriendng Anh right now.

At least the department chair is getting a show. And you look like you having fun

No, I mean— not because I'm.. I meant you look like youre having a good time playing frisbee.

Adam

Beats chit chatting, for sure.

Olive

That makes sense, I bet that's why you're so fit . You played a lot of sports growing up to get out of talking explains why you personality is so-

(Adam lifted an eyebrow)

You're good to go

Adam

Thanks. And thank Anh, I guess.

Olive

Mhm what do you think she'll have us do next time

Adam

Hold hands?

Olive

Feed each other strawberries?

Adam

Good one.

Olive

Maybe she'll up her game.

Adam

Fake wedding?

Olive

Fake-buy a house together?

Adam

Fake sign the mortgage paperwork?

Tom

Hey, olive.

Olive

Hi, tom. Loved your talk the other day.

Tom

It was good wasn't it? Did Adam tell you about our change of plans?

Olive

change of plans?

Tom

We're going to Boston next week to finish some things up for the grant.

Olive

Oh that's great.

(To adam)

How long will you be gone?

Adam

Just a couple of days.

Tom

Would you be able to send me your report by Saturday Olive? Then we can discuss it whilst i'm still here

Olive

Yeah, of course. I'll send it to you on Saturday.

Tom

Perfect.

(To adam)

Are you coming back to play?

(Adam nodded at him and tom went to the pitch, adam nodded goodbye at olive)

{the big question here is do we put in the quick bit under the tree - i honestly don't think it's Necessary but if we're lacking friendship scenes we can add it in}

Malcolm Love dissection in Starbucks scene

Malcolm

I told you so.

Olive

You didn't.

Malcolm

Well maybe i didnt say it in exact words but i did say that this whole idea was idiotic and a car wreck waiting to happen—
which i believe encompasses the whole situation.

Olive

How could this happen? Who likes adam Carlsen

Malcolm

Everyone, ol. He's a tall, broody, sullen hunk with a genius IQ. Everyone likes that.

Olive

I don't!

Malcolm

Clearly you do.

Olive

Shit.

Malcom

Hey, we'll figure this out. First of all, how bad is it?

Olive

I dont know? Is there a scale?

Malcolm

Well there's liking and them liking.

Olive

I just like him. I want to spend time with him.

Malcolm

Ok, but, you also want to spend time with me.

Olive

Not quite like that.

Malcolm

I see.

Way to bring a room com to life, by the way, so how are you going to break the news?

Olive

What do you mean?

Malcolm

Your feelings? You're going to tell him, right?

Olive

Of course not, he will think i orchestrated it the entire time

Malcolm

That's ridiculous, you didn't even know him then

Olive

Maybe I did though, do you remember the guy I told you about, the one who helped me decide about grad school, the one I met in the bathroom.

He might have been Adam, I think.

Malcolm

You didn't ask him?

Olive

Of course not.

I mean what if it wasn't him. If it was, he would have said so weeks ago.

Malcom

Listen olive, what if Adam likes you too?

Olive

there's no way.

Malcolm

Why not?

Olive

Because, he's adam Carlson and i—

Malcolm

You have no idea do you? You're great, beautiful and loyal— hell ol look at this mess you created so that your friend can date the guy she likes. There's no way Carlsen hasn't noticed.

Olive

No. I think he likes me, but as a friend.

Malcom

But if you tell him, and he doesn't want to fake date you anymore, It's not like you have much to lose.

Olive

I do though

Malcolm

Listen i know it's scary, but this doesn't mean it's a bad thing

Olive

It's the worst.

Malcolm

I know it's scary being vulnerable, but you can allow yourself to care. You can want to be with people as more than just friends or casual acquaintances

Olive

But i can't

Malcolm

Why not?

Olive

Because all the people I care about are gone.

Im sorry, it's just — one way or another they all go, if i let myself care Adam will go too.

Malcolm

Oh ol

Olive

You should go. Finish your surgeries.

Malcolm

I care. Anh cares— Anh would have chosen you over jeremy. And you care too. We all care about one another, and I'm still here. I'm not going anywhere.

Olive

It's different

Malcolm

How?

Olive

I won't tell him.

Malcolm

OI.

Olive

No, I'm not going to tell him. It's a horrible idea.

Malcolm

OI.

Olive

How would that conversation work? Do I tell him that I'm into him? That I think about him all the time? That I have a huge crush on him? That—

Malcolm

Olive.

(Olive turns to where Malcolm is facing just to see adam standing at the side of the table, just on time for there Wednesday coffee date)

Starbucks date after he overheard - with holden

Olive

Did you hear that?

Malcolm

I was just about to go

(He leaves and adam sits in his place)

Adam

Yes

Olive

It wasn't about you

Adam

I know.

Olive

I just, I have a thing. For a guy.

Adam

Yeah I gathered - you don't have to explain if you don't want to.

Olive

It's just that—

Adam

It's okay.

This... our arrangement. It's supposed to help both of us. If it stops doing so...

Olive

No i— it's complicated.

Adam

I see.

Olive

There is no need to stop our arrangement early, because I can't tell him I like him. Because i—

Holden

Dude, since when are you not in your offi— oh. I see.

Hey, olive.

Olive

Hey, dr.Rodriguez. How are you?

Holden

Pssh. Please call me Holden. You're not my student anymore and you have the very dubious pleasure of dating my oldest, most socially impaired friend.

(To adam)

You're leaving for Boston tonight, right?

Adam

Yeah. Can you still give me and tom a ride to the airport?

Holden

Depends? Will tom be gagged and tied up in the trunk

Adam

Holden.

Holden

Anyway, I didn't mean to interrupt.

Olive

It's okay

Holden

Really, well then, what were we talking about?

Olive

Ah nothing much.

Sorry i forgot you two knew each other.

Holden

(Holden kicked adam under the table)

You little shit. You didn't tell her about our decades deep history?

Adam

Just trying to forget.

Holden

We grew up together.

Olive

I thought you grew up in europe?

Holden

He grew up all over the place and so did I since our parents worked together. But then our families settled in DC.

Guess who went to high school, college and grad school together

(Olives eyes widen and Holden kicks adam again)

You really haven't told her.

Did Adam tell you that he almost didn't graduate high school? He got suspended for punching a guy who insisted that the large hadron collider would destroy the planet.

Adam

Interesting how you fail to mention that you got suspended for the same reason.

Holden

What about the time he applied for law school?

Adam

I never technically applied for law school.

Holden

Did he at least tell you that he was my prom date?

Picture this olive. Early two thousands. Ridiculously overpriced all male school. Two out gay students in total. Richie Miller and I dated for the entirety of senior year— and then he dumped me for some guy he'd been having a thing with for months.

Adam

He was a prick.

Holden

I have three choices. Not to go to the dance and mope at home. Go alone and mope at school. Or have my best friend come as my date. Guess which?

Olive

How did you convince him?

Holden

That's the thing, I didn't. When I told him what happened, he offered!

Can you believe it?

Olive

Nope.

Holden

We held hands, slow danced, made Richie spit out his punch and regret all his decisions, then we went home and played final fantasy, it was the shit.

Adam

It was surprisingly fun

Holden

Well this was fantastic, we should do this again the three of us, I can't remember the last time I had the pleasure of embarrassing Adam in front of a girlfriend. For now then he's all yours.

(He left)

Olive

You didn't tell Holden about us either, that it's not real.

Adam

No.

Olive

Why?

Adam

I don't know? I think I just didn't...

He speaks very highly of you, you know?

Olive

Holden, Of me?

Adam

Of your work. And your research.

Olive

Oh

(Pause)

Adam

Do you want to get coffee?

Olive

No, I think I need to go back to the lab.

(She grabbed her bag ready to leave)

We are friends, right?

Adam

Friends?

Olive

Yes. You and i?

Adam

Yes, olive.

(She nodded, about to go)

Olive, this might be inappropriate but... olive you really are extraordinary, and i cannot imagine that if you told jeremy how you feel he wouldn't...

Olive

I'll see you next week, okay

(She left the Starbucks)

When she gets accepted for the talk

(Olive was in the coffee shop and adam appeared in front of her)

Adam

How are you?

(He sat)

Olive

Good. How was Boston?

Adam

Good, you look tired smart-ass

Olive

Oh yeah, i- im fine its been a week though.

Adam

What happened?

Olive

I- my abstract got accepted for a talk and i have to find accommodation, i was going to go with my friends but they made other plans.

Adam

Why would they do that?

Olive

Because they assumed that I'd want to stay with you since you're my... you know- boyfriend.

Adam

I see

Olive

Hmm, i'm thinking of booking this motel an hour away

Adam

Won't they know that you're not staying with me?

Olive

Oh, well where are you staying?

Adam

The conference hotel.

I would offer to pay for your hotel but there's nothing in a ten mile radius

Olive

Oh no, I wouldn't accept it anyway. It's not a cup of coffee or a pumpkin frappuccino, which by the way is new on the menu and you could totally buy for me.

Adam

Sure

Olive

Awesome

Adam

You could room with me, the room is a double obviously

Olive

It's not a good idea, people will think that we... okay fine they already think that but-

Adam, there will only be one bed.

Adam

No, as i said it's a double—

Olive

It doesn't matter, it's always one bed— nothing. Ignore me.

It just seems like a bad idea.

Adam

Are you afraid that I'll try and kiss you without your consent? To sit on your lap, or fondle you under the pretext of applying suncream? Because i would never—

Olive

Am I ever going to live that down?

Adam

Unlikely.

Olive

You'd hate it, rooming with me. You seem like a person who likes their own space.

Adam

Olive I'll be fine. We are friends, no?

Olive

Yes. we are.

(Pause)

Are you sure that it wouldn't bother you?

(Adam nodded)

Okay, then. okay.

Assault

Malcolm

(Kiss olive on cheek)

We should go celebrate the single time olive managed to pronounce 'channelrhodopsin' right with some free booze

Olive

You dick

Malcolm

(Hugs her)

You did amazing Kalamata

(Pause)

Let's go get wasted!

Olive

Why don't you go ahead? I'll get my usb and put my stuff back

(Walks through the now empty - smiling)

Tom

It went well

Olive

Thank you. yours, too

Tom

Where's Adam

Olive

still giving his keynote, i think

Tom

Right.

He does that doesn't he?

Olive

Does what?

Tom

Outdoes you

Well outdoes everyone, it's not personal

(Pause)

I think that we will get along great next year

Olive

We will

Thank you so much for giving me and my project a chance. I can't wait to start working with you.

Tom

You're welcome

I think there are a lot of things we can gain from each other

Olive

I hope so, i think imaging and blood biomarkers complement each other perfectly and-

Tom

And i have what you need, don't i

Olive

Yes. You do i—

(Tom is closer no. A lot closer)

I'm grateful. I'm sure that—

(His hand grabs her upper arm)

What?

What are you doing

(She frees her arm and takes a few steps back)

Tom

A preview, I think.

(He moved closer again)

(She pushed him away)

(Tom laughs)

Olive

A preview— of what? Are you out of your mind?

Tom

Come on.

A pretty girl like you should know the score by now.

Don't lie to me and say you didnt pick out a dress that short for my benefit. Nice legs, by the way. I can understand why Adam is wasting his time with you.

Olive

The— what are—

Tom

Olive.

You dont think I accepted you into my lab because youre good, do you.

A girl like you, you should know this is how successful scholars get ahead.

You fucked Adam didnt you? And youre going to fuck me for the same reason.

Olive

You are disgusting.

Tom

Am i?

You used Adam to get to me and my lab.

Olive

I didnt, i didnt even know him when I submitted—

Tom

Oh please you think your talk was picked because it has a high scientific significance. Someone thinks highly of herself.

Especially considering she can barely string words together without stuttering like an idiot.

Olive

It's not true.

Tom

No? You think its not true that scientists want to kiss the ground Adam Carlson walks on. I certainly did when he told me that his mediocre girlfriend could come and work for me.

But maybe you're right. Maybe you know stem academia better than I do.

Olive

I'm going to tell Adam

Tom

By all means. Go ahead. Do you want to borrow my phone

Olive

No.

No.

(Starts to walk towards the door)

Tom

Quick question. Who do you think he's going to believe, some girl he's been seeing for two weeks, or someone who's been his close friend for years? Someone who's had his back since he was younger than you are? Someone who's actually a good scientist.

Olive

Why are you doing this

Tom

because I can.

Because as my collaboration goes with Adam, it's annoying that he has to be the best at everything, and I like the idea of taking something close to him.

Because you are very pretty and I look forward to next year with you. Who would have thought he would have good taste.

Olive

You are crazy if you think i'm going to work with you—

Tom

Oh olive but you will.

Because you don't have a choice. Because if you want to finish your project my lab is the only opportunity.

And if you don't— well. You sent me all the information on your protocols so I can easily replicate them.

Maybe I'll mention you in the acknowledgments section.

Olive

You wouldn't. its research misconduct.

Tom

listen olive. My advice: suck it up. Keep Adam happy, and then come to my lab and do some decent work. If you keep me happy, I'll make sure you cure the world of pancreatic cancer. Your little sob story about your mom or your aunt or your stupid kinder garden teacher wont get you far. You're mediocre.

(Olive turned around and ran out the room)

The date thing at the talk

(Olive crying in the room, Adam enters and kneels in front of olive)

Adam

What's wrong

Olive

Nothing.

Adam

Olive.

Olive

Really nothing

Adam

What's happened?

Olive

I just-

(Toms voice - who do you think adam will believe olive?)

Olive

My talk, i thought it went okay. My friends said it did but then i heard people talking about it-

Adam

What did they say?

Olive

Nothing- that it was derivative and boring, they knew i was your girlfriend and they said that was the only reason i was given the talk.

Adam

Who? Who were they?

Olive

Someone-i'm not sure

Adam

Were they on your panel?

Olive

I don't know? I don't really mind what people think

Adam

But that's the problem isn't it, it's not what they say it's what you think and you think there right don't you?

Olive

I-

Adam

Olive you're a great scientist and you will become an even better one. Your work is brilliant.

(He wrapped her in a hug)

Olive

I really am fine- ok maybe I'm not but I will be

(She took a deep breath)

Thank you for what you said, and for letting me get snot all over your hotel room and your blazer - are you going to the department social?

Adam

Are you?

Olive

I said i would, but i dont feel like talking to anyone although, I could probably use the free alcohol right now

Adam

Come on

Olive

Oh, i think im going to-

Adam

We're not going to the social

Olive

Oh,

(She stood up and got her shoes on)

Where are we going?

Adam

To get some free alcohol, well free for you.

Olive

No, adam you have to go the social you're the keynote speaker

Adam

And I keynote spoke.

Can you walk in those shoes.

Olive

I- yes, adam you cant skip these events people will think that you?

Adam

That i want to spend time with my girlfriend?

(He tugged her hand and she followed him out the room)

Olive

So these free drinks you mentioned? Do they come with food?

Adam

I'll get you dinner.

(We see them walk off and go for there date)

{could add in the elevator scene back to the room}

29 September realisation

Olive:

Hold on, what happened?

Anh:

The weirdest thing

Malcolm:

Coollest

She means coolest

Anh:

Where were you Oi? You said you were gonna join us

Olive:

Here. I just, um, was tired after my talk, and fell asleep and-

Anh:

Lame, Oi, very lame, but I have no time to berate you for your lameness because we need to catch you up with what happened last night-

Malcolm:

I shock tell her, since it's about me

Anh:

Fair enough

Malcolm:

Oh, who have I been wanting to have sex with for the past several years

Olive:

Uh.....

Victoria Beckham?

Malcolm:

No. Well yes. But no

Olive:

David Beckham?

Malcolm:

No. Okay, yes, but don't focus on celebrities, focus on real life people-

Anh:

Holden Rodrigues!

He hooked up with Rodrigues at the department social.

Olive:

Wow!

Anh:

Isn't it the weirdest-

Malcolm:

Coolest Anh coolest

Olive:

Hold up

Holdens not even in the department, why was he even at the social?

Malcolm:

No idea, but you bring up a excellent point, which is that since he's in pharmacology, we can do whatever we want without having to tell anyone

Anh:

Is that so?

Malcolm:

Yep. We checked with Stanford's socialization regulations-

Olive:

I'm so happy for you. How did it happen?

Malcolm:

I hit on him. It was glorious!

Anh:

He was shameless, Ol. And glorious. I took some pictures

(Malcolm Gasps)

Malcolm:

OKay that's illegal and I could sue you. But if i look good in them, send them my way

Anh:

Will do ;)

Malcolm:

He wants to see me again. TODAY. A date. He used the word "date" unprompted. He's so hot. And funny. And nice.

Olive:

I'm so happy for you Malcolm!

Anh:

Same!

Malcolm:

I'm happy for me, too

I hope he's serious

Anh:

You should ask Carlsen, Ol, if he knows what Holden's intentions are

Olive:

I will

Malcolm:

Did you really fall asleep last night? Or were you and Carlsen celebrating unmentionable ways?

Olive:

Celebrating?

Malcolm:

I told Holden that I was worried about you, he said that you guys were probably celebrating. Something about Carlsen's funds being released? By the way you never told me Carlsen and Holden were best friends it seemed like a piece of information you'd want to share with your Holden-Rodrigues-fan-club-founder-and-most-

Vocal-member-roommate-

Olive:

Wait. The funds that were released, are they.....the frozen ones? The ones Stanford was withholding?

Malcolm:

Maybe? Holden said something about a department chair finally easing up. I tried not to pay attention, but talking about Carslen is a bit of a buzzkill- no offence. Plus I kept getting lost in Holden's eyes

Anh

And his butt

Malcolm

And his butt.

He has such a nice butt. He has little dimples on his lower back

Anh

Omg. So does Jeremy! I want to bite them!

Malcolm

Aren't they the cutest!

(On text)

Adam: I have interview meetings until 4:30, but I'm free for the night. Would you like to get dinner? There are several good restaurants near campus (though a shameful lack of conveyor belts) if you're not too busy, I could show you around campus, maybe even Tom's lab.

No pressure of course

Anh and Malcolm find out about assault

Today,3:11

FROM:Aysegul-Aslan@stanford.edu

TO:Olive-Smith@stanford.edu

SUBJECT: Reaching out to researchers for pancreatic cancer project

Olive,

I'd be happy to introduce you and ask scholars about opportunities for you in the labs. I agree that they might be more welcoming if the email comes from me. Send me your list, please. BTW, you still haven't sent the recording of your talk. I cannot wait to listen to it!

Warmly

Aysegul Aslan,Ph.D

Olive:

This will take a while guys. I have to send Dr. Aslan an audio file, and i need to edit it first

Anh:

Fineee

Malcolm, would you like to entertain us with tales of your date with Holden?

Malcolm:

Okay, first, he work the cutest baby-blue button-down

Anh:

Baby-blue?

Malcolm:

Shut your mouth with that sceptical tone. Then he got me one flower

Anh:

Where'd he get the flour?

Malcolm:

Not sure

Anh:

Maybe he stole it from the buffet? I think I saw pink carnations downstairs?

Malcolm:

Maybe

Anh:

And they say romance is dead

Malcolm:

Shut up. Then, towards the beginning of the date. Something happened, something catastroph—

Tom on recording:

A girl like you. Who figured out so early in her academic career that fucking well-know, successful scholars is how you get ahead. You fucked Adam, didn't you? We both know your gang to fuck me for the same reason—

Malcolm:

The hell was that?

Him finding out

(Olive gets out of the car and went into the restaurant that Adam had been taken too by the Harvard professors)

(She started walking towards the table)

Adam

(Spotting her)

Excuse me

(He walks over to her)

Olive, are you ok?

Olive

Im fine, im sorry to interrupt and - this is inappropriate but its now or never. I need to tell you something. Something that happened. With-

Tom

Hey, olive

Olive

(Not looking at him)

Hey Tom,can you give us a minute?

Tom

Olive, i know youre young and dont know how these things work, but—

Adam

Leave

Olive

Oh ok, im—

Adam

Not you. Tom, leave us.

Tom

Dude, you cant just walk away in the middle of an interview dinner and—

Adam

Leave,

Tom

No not unless you're coming with me. We're collaborators and if you act like an asshole during a dinner because of some student you're screwing, it will reflect poorly on me. You need—

Recording (tom)

“A pretty girl like you should know the score by now.

Don't lie to me and say you didn't pick out a dress that short for my benefit. Nice legs, by the way. I can understand why Adam is wasting his time with you.”

(Pause)

“You don't think I accepted you into my lab because you're good, do you.

A girl like you, you should know this is how successful scholars get ahead.

You fucked Adam didnt you? And youre going to fuck me for the same reason.”

Tom

What the—

(Adam pushed a hand to tom's chest holding him away from olive as he watched the video on olives phone)

Recording (tom)

“Oh please, you think your talk was picked because it has a high scientific significance. Someone thinks highly of herself.

Especially considering she can barely string words together without stuttering like an idiot.”

Adam

It was him. It was tom. the reason you were crying

(Olive nodded)

Tom

This is ridiculous. Im not sure what this bitches problem is but she clearly—

(Adam pinned tom to the wall)

Adam

I am going to kill you, If you say another word about the woman i love, if you even think about her— i am going to kill you.

Tom

Adam—

Adam

Actually, it will kill you anyway.

(The Harvard professors and hostesses run over)

Olive

Adam dont. He's not worth it.

(Adam took a step back ignored the people asking him questions and went straight to olive holding her face in his hands)

Adam

I'm sorry. I'm so sorry I didn't know and I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

Olive

It's not your fault

Adam

I'm sorry. I'm—

Harvard professor

Dr. Carlsen, I demand an explanation.

(Pause)

Dr. Carlsen, this is unacceptable—

Olive

Adam, you have to answer him.

(Adam pressed a kiss to her forehead)

Adam

Send me that recording immediately,

(Facing the professor)

We need to talk. privately. Your office?

(He nodded, but tom was aggravated at that)

Keep him away from me.

(He turned to olive before leaving)

I'm going to take care of this, and then I'll come find you and I'll take care of you.

Double date

Malcolm

Holden sent a message for you.

Olive

Holden?

Malcolm

Well technically, it's from Carlson, he lost his phone charger and cant text you but he and Holden are on the way to SFO.

Olive

When will they get there?

Malcolm

Ten minutes after us even though they're only now leaving Boston. Eat the rich.

Olive

Did Holden say anything about...

Malcolm

(Shakes his head)

There plane is about to leave, we can wait for them there, i'm sure adam will have some updates just for you

-

{they arrive at SFO}

(Malcolm goes to get a bottle of coke)

(Olive checks her phone and has for emails all saying that they'd love for olive to work in their lab next year)

Malcolm (cont'd)

OI look who i ran into.

(Malcolm was holding hands with Holden and adam walked next to them)

Holden

Hear me out, the four of us: double date. Tonight.

Adam

(Walked to olive and stood next to her)

How are you?

Olive

Good. You?

Adam

Good.

Holden

What about Chinese?

Malcolm

Im cool with Chinese

Holden

Olive?

Olive

Um... i like Chinese

Holden

Perfect. So does adam, so—

Adam

I'm not having dinner out

Holden

Why?

Adam

I have better things to do

Holden

Like what? Olive's coming, too.

Adam

Leave Olive alone. She's tired, and we're busy

Holden

I have access to your google calendar asshole. You're not busy, if you dont want to haven't out with me you can just be honest.

Adam

I dont want to hang out with you

Holden

You little shit. After the week we just had. And on my birthday.

Adam

It's not your birthday, your birthday is April tenth.

Holden

Is it though?

Adam

Holden we've talked daily for the past twenty five years, i know when your birthday is

Holden

You always had it wrong, i was just too nice to tell you. So Chinese to celebrate my birth?

Olive

(Whispering to adam)

It will be fun

Adam

(Whispering to olive)

It will be excruciating

(Olive started laughing)

Malcolm

Why are you laughing, ol?

Adam

Fine we'll go. But im excused from any birthday related outings for the next two years.

-

{at the Chinese restaurant}

Holden

We should start by addressing the obvious, which is that Malcolm and adam hate each other

(Adam frowned and Malcolm covered his face with his hands)

I am reliably informed tha adam called Malcolms experiments 'sloppy' and 'a misuse of research funds' during a committee meeting, and that Malcolm took offence to that. Now adam, do you have anything to say for yourself?

Adam

Uh... i have no recollection of that meeting although it does sound like something I'd say

Holden

Great. Now tell Malcolm it wasnt personal so we can move on and have fried rice.

Malcolm

Omg, Holden, please

Holden

As of right now my boyfriend thinks that his BFF's boyfriend and my BFF has it out for him, and its cramping my double dating style, so adam, please.

Adam

BFF?

Holden

Adam.

Adam

Whatever i said or did, it was not personal.

Holden

Perfect. Egg rolls for appetiser, yes?

{the menus arrive and they are looking through them)

Adam

Look at that abomination

Olive

No way.

Adam

Appalling

Olive

Amazing, you mean. This is my new favourite restaurant.

Adam

You haven't even tried it yet

Olive

It will be spectacular

Adam

It will be horrific—

Holden

What's this all about

Olive

Oh, nothing they just have a pumpkin spice bubble tea.

Malcolm

Ugh, Ol. Gross.

Holden

It sounds great.

(To Malcolm)

We should get one to split

Malcolm

Excuse me?

Olive

Don't get Malcom started on pumpkin spice

Malcolm

This is a serious matter. Pumpkin spice is satans dandruff, harbinger of the apocalypse, and it tastes like ass — not in the good way.

(Adam nodded in agreement)

One pumpkin spice latte contains the same amount of sugar you'd find in fifty skittles — and no pumpkin whatsoever

Holden

(To olive)

Our boyfriends have so much in common

Olive

They do. They think hating entire harmless families of food is a personality trait

Malcolm

pumpkin spice is not harmless it's a radioactive overpowering sugar bomb.

and you—

(Points finger)

are on thin ice.

Holden

what—why?

Malcolm

I can't date someone who doesn't respect my stance on pumpkin spice

Holden

to be fair it's not a very respectable stance

(lifted his hands in defence at Malcolm's expression)

I had no idea babe

Malcolm

you should have

Adam

(Clicks tongue)

Yes, Holden. Do Better.

(Holden gave him the finger)

Holden

(To Malcolm)

Come on it's not even comparable, olive and adam have been together for years . We met less than a week ago.

Malcolm

They have not, they started dating like a month before we did.

Holden

No, Adam was into her for ages. He probably secretly studied her eating habit and compiled seventeen different databases to predict her culinary preferences—

Olive

(Olive laughed)

We only just started hanging out. At the beginning of the fall semester.

Holden

Yes, but you knew each other from earlier. You two met the year before you started your phd here, when you came for an interview, he's been pining after you ever since.

Olive

(Pause)

Yeah, I guess he has.

I love you in Dutch

(We see them laughing as they stand up from the table together and olive picks up the 4 fortune cookies and hands them to everyone as they walk outside)

Adam

These taste like styrofoam

Malcolm

They probably have similar nutritional values too

(Holden opened his up)

Holden

He who laughs at himself never runs out of things to laugh at. Is that shade.

Did this fortune cookie just through shade at me.

Malcolm

Sounds like it. Mine says, says 'Why not treat yourself to a good time instead of waiting for somebody else to do it?'

I think my cookie just shaded you, too, babe

Holden

What's wrong with this balch?

(Looking at olive and adam)

What do yours say?

Olive

Mine's normal

Holden

You're lying

Olive

Nope, 'it's never too late to tell the truth'

(She slipped the paper into her pocket)

Holden

Adam, open yours

Adam

Nah

Holden

Come on

Adam

Im not going to eat a piece of cardboard because it hurt your feelings

Olive

I'll eat it and read it

Malcolm

Adam's giving you a ride home, right ol?

Olive

Oh no need its only a ten minute walk

Malcolm

But what about your suitcase

Olive

Oh its- actually, adam will walk me home wont you?

Adam

Of course.

(He slipped her bag over her shoulder, Malcolm and Holden start heading to the car)

Holden

(Malcolm drove past slowly as Holden stuck his head out the window)

Hey, what did adams fortune cookie say?

Olive

Mmm, not much, just Holden Rodriquez P.h.d, is a loser.

(Malcolm sped up and Holden flipped her off)

Adam

What does it really say?

