

Dating

by

Mickey Bolmer

(10 min, 2, comedy)

49 year old homemaker
turns
in
his tea towels
meaning
to
go out
on a date
Wednesdays and Fridays

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Characters

Mickey (49)
Bartender
(Either Mickey, the Bartender, or both can do the voices)

Set

a bar, one stool.

Props

towel, drinks, date ball, phones, piece of paper

Dating by Mickey Bolmer © October 2000

Dating
("Gotta Serve Somebody" by Bob Dylan playing)

BARTENDER
What can I get you, Mac?

MICKEY
I need a date.

BARTENDER
No, Mac.

MICKEY
Name's Mickey

BARTENDER
"M-i-c"

MICKEY
(fiddling with the Bartender's towel)
Forty-nine years of "M-i-see you real soon," not. Scotch, Dewars, on the rocks.
(Mickey puts the bartender's towel on his shoulder.)
So, Wednesday, stood in front of the TV
(Bartender turns off the music. Mickey will drink the first fast. The bartender keeps pouring.)

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MICKEY
Before you guys turn on 'Whose Line,' I need to speak to you.

JESSICA
But Daddy, Mommy said we could watch, and Daddy, I let you take almost all my Halloween candy to school to give the homeless!

JANE
Go on, Mickey.

MICKEY
For you and you. Yes, I am turning in my tea towels. Do with them as you wish. I am off to find my fortune!

JANE
Do you leave tonight?

MICKEY

I am not actually leaving home

JESSICA

Daddy are you having an affair cause you're afraid of dying like in "Moonstruck"?

MICKEY

I am rejoining the world of dating.

JESSICA

Wait Daddy, I'll get my Date Ball!

JANE

On our first date, thirty years ago, you got the wrong tickets. You haven't dated since you moved into my room junior year; are you leaving me?

MICKEY

You left me.

JANE

Fourteen years ago. You came for me.

MICKEY

And Jessica came and who gave up whose career for whom and who gave up the city he loves for raking leaves! And here we are!

JANE

I thought you were over all that?

MICKEY

So I am and ready to move on.

JANE

We just moved.

MICKEY

I moved you to a great new job and house, Jessica to a great new school and neighborhood, and then I spent the last six months unpacking fourteen tons of stuff. Yes, you helped, a little. Now everything is in its place, but me. I need a date.

JANE

You were a virgin when we made love in your college bed. You have never slept with another person.

JESSICA

Ok, I've got it! When're you going on your first date?

MICKEY

Friday. I will be going out on a date every Wednesday and Friday.

JESSICA

Will Daddy have a date this Friday? Oh, Daddy, it says, "No Way!" Wait, wait, I'm trying again. "I'm cool with that."

JANE

Just a word of advice: many need wives. You are a very good wife. You are an even better partner. I love you.

JESSICA

I love you, Daddy. Can I have a dog? I'll walk my dog on your date days. Daddy, have fun. You know, when I'm going in to play soccer or basketball or have a test, you say, "Have fun! Play smart!"

JANE

(with Jessica)

Play smart!

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MICKEY

Hello, Louise, it's Mickey. Will you go out on a date with me?

LOUISE

I'm Jane's best friend, your friend, and your daughter's god-mother.

MICKEY

You are the most sophisticated person we...I know. You have a powerful and successful career, many close friendships, several on-going love affairs, and several powerful men with whom you enjoy spending time. You are an excellent daughter and sister; you know more about wine, clothing, restaurants, conversation, and, I have always assumed, sex, than any other person we...I know. Are you there Louise? I miss dating.

LOUISE

You never dated. Like all of us, you had friends and went to parties.

MICKEY

In high school, I loved one tall girl with long straight brown hair; took her to dinner at La Caravel and then to a concert at Madison Square Garden. The Doors, with trumpets, looking, sounding tired, old. I was seventeen. Merely touching a girl's hand produced an erection.

LOUISE

Mickey, a good friend of mine will give me the name of his favorite escort service.

MICKEY

I'm not looking for sex.

LOUISE

Of course you are. People date for two reasons, sex or mating. You are mated.

MICKEY

What about meeting people? Business, power, pleasure?

LOUISE

People eat, drink, and have sex for business, power, and pleasure. They date for sex or mating.

MICKEY

All I want is a date.

LOUISE

No sex?

MICKEY

Perhaps sex, isn't that the pleasure of a date, maybe a kiss, maybe more, maybe good conversation, time, spent with a lovely person, time filled with possibility, imagination, hope.

LOUISE

What does the woman get out of it? Mickey, sex is time filled with possibility, imagination, and hope. And so, I've thought, is marriage. You're forty-nine. A woman looking for sex can do better. A woman looking for good-looking can do better. Yes, you're an excellent listener, but since AIDS lots of people have learned to talk and listen. What about a mistress?

MICKEY

I can't afford a mistress.

LOUISE

No, you: a powerful woman comes into Washington, three, four times a year, you look good in a tuxedo, you're well educated, you look married,

MICKEY

I am married