

Online Breakups Gone Wrong

A Vignette Comedy in One Act

by
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SYNOPSIS

The internet makes everything easier, whether it's staying connected with old friends, shopping, or breaking up with your significant other. But just because online breakups are easier doesn't mean they're a good idea. As seen in these eleven vignettes, the results can be awkward, unpredictable, and hilarious.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

18 Characters

2 M, 5 F, 11 Any Gender (1 M, 1 F possible)

Vignette 1: Bedtime Snack

JOHN: A debater who has three girlfriends over the course of the play.

TRACEY: John's first girlfriend in the play. Does not approve of his snacking preferences.

Vignette 2: Jellyfish

DAVID / DEANNA: A teenager who is nervous about breaking up. Male preferred, gender flexible.

MEL: Dating David. Makes odd insults. Female preferred, gender flexible.

Vignette 3: No Show

ELAINE: A hyper-organized control freak.

Vignette 4: Dress for Success

MIKE: A teen who did not think through his breakup plan.

GINA: Mike's girlfriend who believes in dressing appropriately for major life events.

Vignette 5: 2 A.M.

CHRIS: A very tired teenager who can't sleep. Female preferred, gender flexible.

ASH: Chris's significant other who can't stay awake. Female preferred, gender flexible.

Vignette 6: Pepperoni Pizza

JOHN: Again.

PATRICIA: John's second girlfriend in the play. Does not share his enthusiasm for pepperoni pizza.

Vignette 7: Not Like I Expected

BAILEY: A teen in her first relationship who is learning that her preconceptions were way off. Female preferred, gender flexible.

KARL / KARLA: Dating Bailey and figuring out they don't know her as well as they thought. Any gender.

Vignette 8: Figuratively Speaking

ISABEL / ISAAC: Breaking up with their significant other because of a dark secret. Any gender.

STANLEY / STEPHANIE: Isabel's remarkably understanding significant other. Any gender.

Vignette 9: Rehearsal

RIVER: Rehearsing for a perfect online breakup. Any gender.

Vignette 10: Rolling the Dice

BRIAN / BRIANNA: A teenager who has realized their long-distance relationship isn't working but is having trouble ending it. Any gender.

NIKKI / NICK: Still cares for Brian but is also having trouble ending their relationship. Any gender.

Vignette 11: All Bets Are Off

JOHN: Again.

MAUREEN: John's final girlfriend in the play. Knows more about John than she first lets on.

PRODUCTION NOTES

The play is written to be performed online by actors from their homes but could also be performed onstage with each actor pretending to talk to a screen.

Adjust dialogue as necessary to match the character genders in your production.

PROPERTIES

Blanket – Mike in “Dress for Success” (if performed onstage)

Smartphone – Elaine in “No Show” and River in “Rehearsal”

2 dice –1 for Brian and 1 for Nikki in “Rolling the Dice” (can be mimed if performed onstage)

COSTUMES

Chris and Ash in “2 A.M.” should be dressed for bed. Everyone else wears normal clothing appropriate to the characters hanging out in their homes.

Vignette 1: Bedtime Snack

(JOHN appears onscreen. A moment later, TRACEY appears onscreen.)

TRACEY: Hi, John!

JOHN: Tracey! How's my awesome girlfriend?

TRACEY: I'm good. And wow, it's so weird to hear you call me that.

JOHN: But in a good way, I hope?

TRACEY: Oh, yeah. Definitely. It's just ... I've been seeing you at debate tournaments for years. I think I might've even competed against you one time before I really knew who you were. But I never thought you'd be my boyfriend.

JOHN: Yeah. Funny how things work out.

TRACEY: So ... are you free again this weekend?

JOHN: I've got an English paper to write and I have to work on Sunday afternoon, but I think I can squeeze you in.

TRACEY: I can drive to you if that helps.

JOHN: If you could save me those two hours on the road that would be awesome.

TRACEY: Sure.

JOHN: Hang on ... my ear itches. *(Scratches his right ear.)*

TRACEY: Happens to me all the time.

(JOHN sticks his finger in his ear, begins to wriggle it around, and positions himself so that the ear he is "scratching" is either off-camera or turned away from the camera.)

TRACEY: *(Cont'd.)* You okay there?

(JOHN grimaces and his body language suggests he is digging really hard in his ear.)

JOHN: Yup. I'm good. *(Stops digging and looks at his fingertip.)* Wow. That's a beauty.

TRACEY: *(A bit alarmed.)* What is?

JOHN: It's a ... is "ear booger" an actual term?

TRACEY: I don't know.

End of Freeview

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