

Avoiding the Pitfalls of High School Dating

A Comedy in One Act

By
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DEDICATION

This play is dedicated to Tracy Sue, for all of the usual reasons and for being my favorite person.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Welcome to "Avoiding the Pitfalls of High School Dating," a seminar for high school students who have trouble going on dates. Your hosts for the evening are Lucky Daye and Starry Knight, two people who have invested their entire life savings into creating this simple system of five "never-fail" rules for dating success. Lenny and Matilda, two outcasts, have been brought in to demonstrate the system by going on a series of speed-dates to bring the five simple rules to life. Through a series of humorous and humiliating scenes and hilarious one-liners, we will see if the system is really all it is cracked up to be, or if Lucky and Starry are in for a long, long night. This one-act comedy is simple to produce, and will keep the audience rolling in the aisles-- even if they came without a date!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(5 M, 5 W, some doubling up possible)

LUCKY DAYE: Co-host of the evening. He is a dating coach with a big personality.

STARRY KNIGHT: The other host of the evening. She is also a dating coach with a big personality.

LENNY: A junior in high school who is here to take the dating seminar. He is the type that you would expect not to get too many dates.

MATILDA: Also a junior in high school here for the seminar. She appears to be the type of girl who has never been kissed, because she looks like she's more interested in funerals.

KATIE: Lenny's first "date." She is a high school student, a good sport, but pushed to the limit.

DAN: Matilda's first "date." He is a nice guy who has been looking for a certain girl.

KAYLYNN: Lenny's second "date." She is a popular girl, very pretty.

BUDDY: Matilda's second date. He is an average high school student.

MOM: Matilda's mother. She is pushy and prying.

DAD: Matilda's dad. He is surly and obnoxious.

Note: The roles of Katie and Kaylynn can be played by the same actress. The roles of Dan and Buddy can be played by the same actor.

SETTING

There should be a small table stage right with two chairs set up for a date. There is another identical set-up stage left.

Avoiding the Pitfalls of High School Dating

(AT RISE: LUCKY DAYE and STARRY KNIGHT, charismatic characters dressed in flashy clothes, are on stage and address the audience directly, as though talking to a live studio audience. They are both “dating experts,” and are plugging their new system about avoiding the pitfalls of high school dating.)

LUCKY: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen! My name is Lucky Daye...

STARRY: And my name is Starry Knight...

LUCKY: And we're both here to teach you about...

LUCKY and STARRY: Avoiding the pitfalls of high school dating!

(THEY give themselves a round of applause and encourage the audience to join them.)

STARRY: Have you ever felt unloved?

LUCKY: Unattractive?

LUCKY and STARRY: Downright un-dateable?

STARRY: Do you spend Saturday night alone while everyone else at school is out having the time of their lives?

LUCKY: Do you constantly stare at your cell phone, willing it to ring and save you from your loneliness?

STARRY: Are you worried that the only person who will ever kiss you is your Aunt Gladys, who smells like an awful combination of penny candy and pipe tobacco?

LUCKY: My friends, if you have answered yes to any of these questions, then this is your...

STARRY: Let me guess: their lucky day?

LUCKY: And their starry night!

(THEY both laugh in a rather phony manner, and then immediately adopt serious attitudes as they continue.)

STARRY: Dating isn't easy.

LUCKY: That's right. And neither is high school.

STARRY: So imagine how hard it can be to combine the two!

LUCKY: And yet, high school dating is perhaps the most important time in one's life to develop socially.

STARRY: Yes! High school dating is the training grounds for building successful, adult relationships in years to come.

LUCKY: And while I don't have any (*Makes "air quotes" with fingers.*) "statistics" or any actual (*Once again.*) "scientific proof," I think it's safe to say that if you don't master the art of high school dating, you will probably never get married and most likely wind up dying alone.

STARRY: That's right, Lucky. With an unhealthy number of cats and ceramic figurines, I might add.

LUCKY: But if you're in high school and have never been on a date, don't despair! Help is on the way!

STARRY: Tonight, Lucky and I are going to teach you the ins and outs of navigating the rough waters of teenage relationships with our amazing new system...

LUCKY AND STARRY: "Avoiding the Pitfalls of High School Dating!" (*Encourage audience to applaud.*)

LUCKY: If you follow our FIVE simple rules, you will be well on your way to landing the girl or guy of your dreams.

STARRY: And best of all, you'll be doing so in a safe and responsible manner.

LUCKY: That's very important.

STARRY: I know, Lucky. That's why I said it.

LUCKY: Ha-ha. Right. (*Beat.*) Once you master these easy-to-follow rules, you will understand what it means to be popular...

STARRY: Confident...

LUCKY: Attractive...

STARRY: Well-liked. And oh-so...

LUCKY and STARRY: Dateable!

LUCKY: Even if you have never been on a date in your life, you will find success with our program! It's so simple...

LUCKY and STARRY: Even a child could do it!!!

(Pause.)

STARRY: Not that children should be dating.

LUCKY: Of course not!

STARRY: Wait until high school, kids!

LUCKY: That goes without saying.

STARRY: Not according to our lawyers, Lucky.

LUCKY: Right. *(Slight pause. Big smile.)* Well, let's get started, shall we? Who would like to see a demonstration of our program in action?

(THEY encourage the audience to applaud.)

STARRY: Well, then, let's talk about our daters!

LUCKY: Earlier today, we chose two high school students from hundreds of photographs we received to participate in our demonstration for you. Neither of them are what you would call...eh, well, great dating material.

STARRY: In fact, neither one of them has ever been on a date before.

LUCKY: Now, to prove that our system works equally well for guys and gals alike, we chose a young man named Lenny, and a young lady named Matilda to study our system all day today, and put what they learned into practice this evening for all of you to witness.

STARRY: Lenny and Matilda will have some "speed dates" that demonstrate each of our FIVE simple rules.

LUCKY: Neither Lenny nor Matilda's dates know that they are part of an experiment, so their reactions will be completely authentic.

STARRY: We are certain that the results will amaze you!

LUCKY: Right you are, Starry! So, without any further delay, let's bring out our guy. Ladies and gentlemen, here's Lenny!

(THEY applaud and encourage the audience to do likewise. After a moment, LENNY enters. He is a stereotypical high school geek. He is awkward and uncomfortable in front of

End of Freeview

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