

EDIE + MARK

By Edie Starling

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

EDIE:

A well put together college girl.

MARK:

A disheveled college boy .

If possible, EDIE might be taller than MARK. If not, EDIE can think she's taller.

SCENE - A THEATER

EDIE enters through the audience. She steps along a few seating rows, picks an inspiring audience member with an aisle seat, sits next to them, and offers to shake hands.

EDIE

Hi, I'm Edie!

(If the audience member doesn't respond with their name, she asks for it)

What's your name?

EDIE (CONT'D)

It's nice meeting you [Name.] Are you doing anything after? I'm free in about an hour?

Pause a beat for the audience member to respond.

EDIE (CONT'D)

Maybe we can go across the street and get a McFlurry?

MARK enters from upstage.

MARK

Who the fuck is this!?

EDIE

Chill out, Mark! Geez! This is my friend [Name,] we were just talking about how boring your play is and maybe getting a drink later.

MARK

If you're smart, you'll just walk away now, [Name!] She'll bring you nothing but misery. Edie's a cheating piece of...

EDIE

SHUT UP!!!

EDIE rises and walks onto the stage.

EDIE (CONT'D)
(pushing MARK)

Why are you always like this?

MARK

Like what?

EDIE

Like a pissed-off coyote who has to pee on every corner of the theater. [Name] is super-nice, why don't you give [her/him/them] a chance.

MARK

Do you actually like [Name?]. Or is this just a power trip so you can think you're in control? So you can think you're better than me?

EDIE

Power trip!?! And I got twice as many line readings from you as any other cast member because, because why? You think I don't know how to speak?

MARK

You got the part, didn't you?

EDIE

With [Name] I feel respected. With you I feel tolerated.

MARK

I think you've watched too many of those TikTok lip dubs. Sometimes your speech is just weird. I've only ever tried to help you give the best performance possible.

EDIE

Why can't you just let me be me?

MARK

I do.

EDIE

You do?

MARK

Notice I haven't punched [Name] all night!

EDIE

So, not punching people I talk to is what you consider letting me be me?

MARK

I think it's very mature of me. Tell me you could be this cool if I were flirting with some ho-bag?

EDIE

This can't possibly still be about Cabo? Can it?

MARK

This is about me being the only faithful person on this stage.

EDIE

You've got to let the Cabo thing go! That was one drunken night months ago. Do you even remember what happened? Or where you wound up?

MARK

I remember everything. Anybody else would have let you walk back to California.

EDIE

Listen, Mark, I don't care how tall you are.

MARK

How tall I am?

EDIE

You're the only person here who thinks you're too short to date me!

MARK

Please, not this again!

EDIE

Tall, gorgeous woman; short dumpy guy; you're the only one who thinks it can't work.

MARK

Tall, hot, cheating woman.

EDIE

It was months ago. Let--it--go!

MARK

Who doesn't keep her promises.

EDIE

What promise to you have I ever broken?

MARK

We were supposed to celebrate after this performance! Don't you remember?

EDIE

Oh? Right.

MARK

Thanks for your consideration.

EDIE

That was before you said I should "hit the gym before the performance."

MARK

What's wrong with toning up? You want to look good on stage, don't you?

EDIE

You're a jerk!

MARK goes into the audience and sits in the aisle next to [NAME.]

MARK

[Name,] listen, I know this is sort of coming off like Edie's sweet and I'm some kind of jerk. The thing is, you don't understand the whole story.

I met Edie a year ago today. I was directing a short play and she was one of my actors. It was a romantic comedy and sparks just flew with all the witty repartee.

We went out for drinks after the performance, and 10 days later we moved in together.

EDIE

(shouting from stage)

The last year with Mark has been a great two-and-a-half weeks!

MARK

Actually, sugarp lum, a year is 52 weeks.

EDIE

I don't want to talk about the other 49-and-a-half weeks.

MARK

Anyway, [Name,] she kind of thinks I'm insensitive. But, I mean, have you ever loved someone, and wanted to be supportive, but something always sabotaged it? Maybe you accidentally said the wrong thing? Or maybe she "accidentally" slept with some poser? Honestly, [Name,] Edie's the difficult one. I'm a piece of cake.

EDIE

You're a piece of wedding cake that's been in the freezer for 20 years and one day I'm so hungry I take it out and scarf the old thing down and now I've been puking all afternoon.

MARK

You see what I have to put up with?

Tell me, [Name,] on a scale of one to 10, how hot do you think Edie is?

(waits for [Name's] answer, or

encourages if [Name] doesn't reply)

For me, Edie's a 10. Or maybe an 11. And you're not even seeing her in the outfit she wore in the play last year, oh gawd!

The problem is, she knows it. Which makes her stuck up, arrogant, and impossible to deal with.

EDIE

Honestly, I think I'm pretty nice considering how hot I am.

MARK

And she isn't full of herself at all.

As Edie gives her soliloquy, MARK gets up from next to [Name] and returns to the stage standing a few feet away from Edie.

EDIE

(soliloquy to audience)

What's a girl to do? Do I dress like a man? Cover every inch of flesh? Erase my femininity? Hope to be taken seriously? Or, do I recognize that women have been abused and marginalized for 40,000 years, and go ahead and use what few advantages we might have? Wear a low-cut blouse in my deeply thoughtful YouTube video and get fifty times more views?

(MORE)

EDIE (CONT'D)

How do we know what success even is anyway? Is it doing what men do but better? Or finding a different path? Maybe I'll launch a dating app with no pictures. Just meet human beings, not fleshy fantasy pixels.

(to Mark)

Mark, what attracted you to me in the first place?

MARK

At first? It was your beauty. I'd never seen anyone as radiant as you.

EDIE

And?

MARK

And then later it was your sickly sweet sense of humor. You can be so cheesy! Still, I fell in love with your joy and optimism. If I didn't hear a silly Edie joke in the morning, I felt like a part of me was missing.

EDIE

(looks down and smiles)

Really? You never told me that before.

MARK

What made you attracted to me?

EDIE

At first? I was smitten with your disheveled look. You always had this energetic chaos orbiting around you. No one has ever made "confused" look more sexy than you.

MARK

And?

EDIE

And then later it was your twisted sense of humor. It was off-putting at first! But over time I think you opened up a part of me that I'd kept buried for a long time. I fell in love with you and your sick jokes. When you'd kiss me in the morning I'd think, "he's a shit, but he's my shit."

MARK

(looks down and smiles)

Huh. You never told me that before.

EDIE goes into the audience and sits next to [Name.] She brings an INSTAX or POLAROID CAMERA and a SHARPIE.

EDIE

Listen, [Name,] this might be a mistake, maybe a big one, but I think I have to break up with you. You've never treated me with anything but love and respect. When I met you, I thought I felt something real. I didn't want you to just be my rebound from Mark. But, I think you kind of were. I know life with you would be easier. Maybe better. But for all the twists and turns, I think Mark is the jigsaw puzzle piece that my puzzle piece fits with.

[Name,] being with you has been like staying at the nicest hotel in the world. But I can't live in a hotel forever. At some point, I have to go home to my crappy apartment. Even if we are just ships in the night, I'll never forget you. Or that McFlurry we shared. Would it be OK if I took a picture of us? To remember?

If [Name] is OK with it, EDIE scoots close and starts to take a selfie with [Name.]

If [Name] refuses, EDIE instead offers to take a picture of herself for [Name.]

Before snapping the photo, EDIE hands the camera to a person in the row in front of them.

EDIE (CONT'D)

Could you take a picture of us?

(waits for camera to snap)

Take two, please.

EDIE collects the camera and pictures from the audience member. She signs one with a heart symbol and "Edie" and hands it to [Name.]

EDIE (CONT'D)

Don't forget me.

(stands and outstretches her arm
gesturing with the second print toward
Mark)

Want one?

MARK rolls his eyes.

EDIE (CONT'D)

No.

EDIE puts the second print inside her bra and walks back on stage to meet Mark.

MARK

Are you done now?

EDIE

I think so.

MARK

I hope so.

EDIE

How about that after-theater celebration I promised you?

MARK

I don't feel like celebrating. I just need some sleep.

EDIE

(pushes him lovingly)

C'mon sourpuss, "turn that frown, upside down!"

MARK glares.

EDIE (CONT'D)

I'll buy you a McFlurry?

(Blackout)