

## MARRY YOU ONE DAY

*(LESTER and GRADY enter with baseball gloves and a wooden bat.)*

GRADY

You're not listening to me, Lester, we've got to figure this out!

LESTER

I am listening! You're just not making any sense!

GRADY

My grandpa was **fourteen** when he met my grandma! **Fourteen!** He **always** used to say that it was **love at first sight** and when he saw her that first day, he looked at his **best friend** in the whole world and said, "I'm gonna marry that girl one day." **And then he did!**

LESTER

But what does that have to do with us?

GRADY

We're **seventeen!** We should have our **whole lives** figured out by now!

LESTER

At this rate, I'm just hoping to make it to the twelfth grade!

GRADY

Yeah, I'm sure you and your diploma will be **real** happy together, for-better-or-worse-'til-death-do-you-part!

LESTER

All I'm saying is I'm hoping to sprout a few more chest hairs before I worry about—settling down!

GRADY

Fine! If you want to be sad and alone, so be it. But me... I'm taking action!

LESTER

What are you talking about?

GRADY

Hey, Piper! Piper wait up!

*(He runs over to her, scooping up a flower from the ground on the way.)*

And what may I ask are you doing with this fine, fine afternoon?

PIPER

Nothing much... Just reading for school. It's this really great story, actually, all about—

GRADY

That is just fascinating! Look I was thinking...

*(He feigns embarrassment.)*

Maybe you wouldn't mind wearing my class ring?

PIPER

Um... I don't know...

GRADY

You don't have to answer right now—just... think about it, because... because I'm pretty sure I'm gonna marry you one day!

PIPER

What?!?

GRADY

I didn't mean to say that out loud! But I knew it the first time I saw you smile.

PIPER

... Okay...

*(PIPER giggles and runs off.)*

GRADY

Score one for romance!

LESTER

I didn't even know you liked Piper.

GRADY

What's not to like?

LESTER

Grady!

GRADY

Hold that thought! Maisy! Maisy! Wait up!

MAISY

Hi, Grady Johnson.

GRADY

Hi, *Misses* Johnson.

MAISY

What did you call me?

GRADY

Misses Johnson! That's what you were writing in your notebook this morning in first period, wasn't it?

MAISY

No! I was just... playing around.

GRADY

Here, let me see!

MAISY

No-no-no! It's not what it looks like.

GRADY

Don't worry. I like the sound of it. *Misses* Maisy Johnson. I think I might have to marry you one day, so I can hear it more often.

MAISY

Don't joke, Grady! That's not nice.

GRADY

Hey! You never know. It's a small world.

*(He hands her a flower as well.)*

MAISY

I'll see you at school tomorrow...

GRADY

*(Smirking.)*

Yep! First period...

LESTER

You are an idiot.

GRADY

I'm a genius. The way I see it, no matter who I end up marrying, we'll have the most romantic story **ever told**.

LESTER

Yeah! **Super** romantic!

GRADY

Isn't it! Oh! There's Zora. Back in a pinch.

LESTER

Think about what you're doing—you're using the wrong brain!

ZORA

Hi Grady! Hi Lester!

GRADY

**Hi, Zora!** Look, I was wondering, would you maybe want to go out on a date with me tomorrow night?

ZORA

Actually, tomorrow is my—

*(He puts a finger to her lips.)*

GRADY

Before you say no, **just hear me out**, I think we'd have a really good time. And I hope you'll say yes, because...

*(He shifts dramatically.)*

I think I'm gonna marry you one day. In fact...

*(He drops to his knee.)*

I know it!

ZORA

Oh! Well in that case... who could say no?

GRADY

See? I told you? I'm a genius.

LESTER

Oh, yeah, total genius! Until this all blows up in your face!

GRADY

Don't be such a worry wart. It's foolproof. I'll update you tomorrow!

MAN

Well, Grady Johnson, as I live and breathe! I hear congratulations are in order.

GRADY

Congratulations?

MAN

I heard you got engaged!

GRADY

No, not me! You must've got me mixed up with somebody else.

MAN

Huh! I could've sworn it was you! Oh, well! Congratulations on staying single then! Means you're a smarter man than I am!

*(LESTER knocks on ZORA's front door.)*

AUNT GOODIE

Helloooo!

GRADY

Hi there. You must be Mrs. Neal.

AUNT GOODIE

No, no. I'm Zora's aunt, actually.

GRADY

Oh. Well I'm Grady Johnson. I'm actually here to see Zora.

AUNT GOODIE

Grady! Oh, so *you're* the one we've been hearing so much about!

GRADY

Good things, I hope!

AUNT GOODIE

Well... they've definitely made us smile, come in! Clarice, this is Grady! The one Zora has been telling us about.

AUNT CLARICE

Oh my goodness! In the flesh?

GRADY

Do you think I might be able to speak with Zora? We had plans tonight.

AUNT CLARICE

She told us, but I'm afraid she isn't finished getting ready. They are having the hardest time with that veil.

GRADY

Veil?

AUNT CLARICE

Yes, but Zora insists we get it just right for her one and only wedding day.

GRADY

Wedding day?!?

AUNT CLARICE

Oh! I wasn't supposed to say that, I know I wasn't. I hope I didn't ruin the surprise. She wanted to tell you herself!

GRADY

Oh... it's fine...

AUNT CLARICE

Here, let me go see if she's ready!

AUNT GOODIE

You are so bad!

AUNT CLARICE

It just slipped out.

*(GRADY looks around nervously. He considers running. Then sees the phone. He dials.)*

LESTER

Hello?

GRADY

Lester!

GRADY

It backfired. You were right. You said it would and it did. Now get over here!

LESTER

Over where?

GRADY

To Zora's house. I think I've been lured into my own wedding!

LESTER

And you didn't ask me to be your best man? I'm hurt!

GRADY

Just get over here!

*(AUNT WENDY comes tearing around the corner.)*

AUNT WENDY

Oh, there you are! We have been looking for you all over! You're late! We have got to get you ready.

GRADY

Ready for what?

AUNT WENDY

For the wedding! We've got your suit in the back with the groomsman. I hope you don't mind tails!

GRADY

I did **not** agree to this!

AUNT WENDY

That's not my problem!

*(ZORA comes around the corner—all in white—veil perfect. Her aunts fan out her skirt.)*

AUNT GOODIE & CLARICE

*(Singing.)*

Here comes the bride! All dressed in white!

ZORA

Where did he go?!?

AUNT CLARICE

I don't know. He was just here.

AUNT GOODIE

I bet he ran off! I know I would!

AUNT CLARICE

Me, too! Scrawny little thing! He didn't know what he was walking into.

*(GRADY runs in, chased by AUNT WENDY. He is holding up his pants.)*

GRADY

No, you don't understand I have to go!

AUNT WENDY

Come back here!

GRADY

No! Get off of me!

*(He trips and falls, when he looks up, he sees Zora in her wedding dress.)*

Zora?!?

*(He pushes himself up onto his right knee.)*

I have something I need to ask you.

*(He realizes what it looks like.)*

Oh, gosh, no! Not that! I—

*(He hops to his feet.)*

I don't want to marry you!

ZORA  
(Confused.)

Uh... I don't want to marry you, either.

LESTER  
(Running in.)

I object!

AUNTS

To what?!?

LESTER

Um... Everything?

PIPER

Grady! What are you doing here?

MAISY

I didn't know you were coming to the wedding!

GRADY

**Piper! Maisy!** Not you, too!

ZORA

Grady... no one here is trying to marry you.

AUNT CLARICE

Speak for yourself! I'm may be old, but I ain't dead!

GRADY

Ugh... But what about the dress? And the veil? And... all of this?

ZORA

*I am getting married, but not to you!*

MAISY

Wait. What is going on here?

PIPER

I thought we had something really special!

MAISY & PIPER

You said you were gonna marry me one day? You?!?! No! he said that to me!

LESTER

*(Living on the drama.)*

Oh, I take it back. I don't object to any of this...

AUNTS

*(Snacking on Candied almonds, watching in delight.)*

Amen!

GRADY

But... the suit?!?

ZORA

You mean the suit that my piano player is supposed to be wearing?!?

AUNT WENDY

Wait! He's not the piano player? The wedding starts in ten minutes! Anybody got eyes on the piano player?

GRADY

I should go now... But before I do... I just wanted to say I'm sorry. To all of you. Zora, Maisy, Piper... I should never have made you all a promise I couldn't keep.

MAISY

It's all right, Grady. *Somehow* I think we'll manage to survive!

PIPER

We're a lot smarter than you give us credit for!

ZORA

But just remember... next time... you can't have your cake and eat it, too!

*(PIPER and MAISY smash the cake into GRADY's face.)*

PIPER and MAISY

But who needs cake anyway?!?