

[fill in the blank]

DEFAULT BEGINNING

A Ed sits alone at a table, dressed nicely if a little haphazard. He bounces his leg nervously. He notices a Mary walking up to his table, he adjusts himself before she reaches the table.

NORMAL PATH

Introduce Self:

Ed, nervously: Hi, I'm Ed. You're --

Mary: Mary. Great to finally meet you!

Ed pulls out her chair for her.

Ask About Day

Ed: Tell me about your day. Anything exciting happen?

Mary: Eh, Not much. Honestly, I was just getting myself ready for today.

Ed: Yeah, me too (laughs nervously)

Mary: So, you ever been to this place before?

Ed: I actually haven't. (*beef*) Gotta admit, I did a lot of searching on Yelp to choose a restaurant for today.

(Waiter walks up to table)

Waiter: Hi, what can I get for you?

(Ed quickly unfolds the menu, realizing he hasn't even looked at it)

Mary: Can I have the spaghetti?

Choice as the waiter approaches Ed

Order Spaghetti

Ed: Oh, I'll get the spaghetti too

(waiter nods and walks away)

Mary: I'm lucky this is an Italian place I hadn't even looked at the menu yet

Ed: (relieved) Well I'm lucky you ordered first, I hadn't looked at mine either

(Both laugh. *beef*)

Mary: So your profile says you like to ski?

Ed: Oh man, I forgot I even put that on there. Honestly, I kind of forgot I had Tinder until you messaged me.

Mary, laughing: Really? I *try* and forget I have it. My friends just think that I'm really good at finding cute guys to date while I'm at Starbucks.

Ed and Mary both laugh.

Ed: That reminds me I --

Ed is interrupted by his phone ringing loudly. He looks down at the caller ID.

"Mom."

Ignore Call

(Ed looks down at phone and cancels call)

Ed: Sorry about that.

Mary: Oh, no problem, my ex calls me all the time too

Ed: What... no, it was my --

Mary (laughing): I'm kidding! I saw who it was, you're fine.

A natural pause in the conversation. The two eat their food.

Ed: I used to ski, by the way. Back when I lived in Colorado.

Mary: Get out! I only asked about skiing because I grew up in Colorado!

Ed: Did you ever ride down Beaver Creek?

Mary: Oh man, I was always way too afraid to do that one. (beef)

Honestly, the fact that you said you liked to ski made me swipe right on you so much faster.

GOOD ENDING

Pick Up Call

(Ed looks nervously, unsure what to do before he picks up the phone)

Ed: Hey, mom, is everything okay? Now's not a great time.

Mom, loudly: Edward! I just got off the phone with my doctor. You know how my hemorrhoids have been flaring up recently? I checked with Dr. Kraus and she says that I should be able to use regular toilet paper within two weeks! But she thinks you should come in for a blood test because my bad hemorrhoids might be genetic. You hear me? YOU MIGHT HAVE HEMORRHOIDS, EDWARD.

Ed: Mom, I'll call you later, okay? Bye now.

Ed hangs up the phone and looks at Mary, who has obviously overheard the entire conversation and is somewhat freaked out by it.

Mary: That was... your mother?

Ed: Yeah she, uh, was having some medical issues.

Mary: So I hear.

BAD ENDING

Talk About Your Day

Ed: Oh man, you would not believe the day I had.

Mary: Oh really, what hap --

Ed: (interrupting her) First I had to pick up my niece from her ballet class, but before I got there I was stuck behind the actual slowest driver ever. Seriously, they were going like 25 on the freeway. It was ridiculous. Anyway, I get to my niece's ballet class and I walk in trying to sign her out but this group of moms are blocking the sign out sheet so I have to wait at least ten minutes for them to finish talking about their yoga class so I can sign off on the stupid sheet and drive my niece all the way back home but of course my gas is low so I have to make a pit stop at the gas station but then my card kept on getting declined so I had to pay with cash which meant I had to walk into the station and take my niece with me because I wasn't about to leave her alone in the car so --

(Waiter walks up to table)

Waiter: Hi, what can I get for you two today?

Ed: Hang on one moment I just need to finish this story --

Mary: Can I have the spaghetti?

Waiter: Got it. And... sir? Yes, what would you like

(Ed stops talking and looks nervously to the menu, realizing he hasn't even looked at it)

Choice as the waiter approaches Ed

Liver Salad

Ed: Umm, can I have the...

Ed scans the menu quickly. After searching around the menu for a second or two, his eyes rest on the Liver Salad.

Ed: Liver salad.

Waiter, lowkey disgusted: I... sure thing.

Ed sits with his decision as the waiter walks away. He shudders.

Mary, sarcastic: Wow, and I thought the spaghetti was too exotic.

Ed, nervously laughing: I... yeah. I guess I just, uh, love trying new things.

Eat the Food

(Waiter brings food)

Ed: Mmm, my favorite

Ed looks at the plate in front of him, trying not to let on that he's disgusted. He looks at Mary, then the food, then back at Mary. He takes his fork and digs in. The sounds are disgusting. It's evident that the smell is even worse. Mary eats a bite of her spaghetti before pushing away from the table.

BAD ENDING

Apologize

(Waiter brings food to table and leaves both Ed and Mary looking awkward. Mary looks disgusted at Ed's food)

Ed: I.. I'm sorry, I don't actually like liver salad. I guess I'm, uh, a little more nervous for this date than I thought. The liver salad was just the first thing I saw on the menu.

Mary, letting out a sigh of relief: Oh thank god. I thought I was going to have to order some sort of bizarre dessert to impress you.

(they both laugh)

Mary: I totally understand, though -- I was so nervous for today. *(she slides her plate towards the middle of the table)* Wanna share?

GOOD ENDING

Good Ending

Mary: I actually had a lot of fun tonight, thank you.
Ed : So did I. Look, I don't want to be too forward but if you're free next week...
Mary: I'd love to!
Ed: Thursday?
Mary: 7:30 again?
Ed: Works for me.
Mary: I can't wait.
(Both get up)
Choice to hug to salute

Bad Ending

Mary: I'm sorry, I... I have to go
Ed: Wait just... I'm sorry I don't know what got into me.
Mary No, its not you, (choosing words carefully, awkwardly pausing between each word) my stepsister is giving birth.
Ed: Oh, ok, good luck?
Mary: (walking off, awkwardly) Yeah, uh, sure, thanks.
Ed remains alone awkwardly at the table, poking at his liver salad. Once Mary leaves for sure, he reaches over to her side of the table and begins to eat her spaghetti.

ABSURD PATH

SHAKE HAND CHOSEN:

Ed smiles initially, shaking Mary's hand.
Mary is staring intently at Ed. The handshake slows down, and Mary looks grim.
Close up of her hand gripping his tightly.
Ed looks uncomfortable, and then looks up at Mary.
(Choices)

Squeeze Hand Back

Ed furrows his brow, his smile fading and he squeezes back
(Close up of hands tightening)
Mary raises her eyebrow a little, and squeezes further
Ed looks at Mary and smirks a little.
Mary isn't looking at Ed, instead staring at the hands
Close up of hands

(CHOICES)

Play it off

(CHECK OTHER BRANCH)

Ed will begin talking, Mary will nonchalantly sit down at table and look at the menu.

Continue Squeezing

Ed Grits his teeth and continues squeezing, looking visibly uncomfortable now.

(Close up on Hands).
Mary, unflinching, stares at Ed, then back to the hands.
(Close up of hands)
Ed grunts at the pain, but doesn't relinquish yet.
(Close up of hands; sound of tightening)
Mary shows no discomfort.

Play it off

(CHECK OTHER BRANCH)

Continue Squeezing

Ed drops to one knee, beginning to make audible pain noises
(Close up of Hand)(Mary is clearly the dominant squeezer)
Mary is now towering over Ed squeezing his hand.
Mary smirks, then pushes forward, Ed begins to scream
(Close up of Hands. They're shaking)
Mary stops smirking.
Snap Ed falls over, broken hand.

END

Comment on tight grip:

Ed: Wow, strong grip you got there.
Mary sighs and says nothing. They stop shaking hands.
Ed: Sit down, let's --
Mary slugs her fist right into Ed's face.
Ed stumbles back clutching his face.
Ed: OWWWWWW
Mary nonchalantly sits down at the table and picks up a menu.
Ed stands up, brushes himself off and stares directly at the Mary.
(CHOICES)

Play it Off:

Ed is still in vague pain. Mary sits nonchalantly in her chair reading a menu.
Ed: So--uhhh, do you do Karate or something?
Mary: *very calmly* sit down, our food is here.
Waiter is already there holding two plates.
He places them down
Close to food
Back to wide, waiter is gone.
Ed: Did you order?
Mary stays silent and stares Ed down. She's looking pretty creepy, but giving her the benefit of the doubt, Ed clears his throat and attempts a conversation topic.
Ed begins looking around nervously.
Ed: So... you see any good movies recently?
Mary says nothing. Ed stares at her, confused. Beat. Ed looks down at his empty glass and raises his hand to flag down a waiter.

Ed: Excuse me --

He looks down and his glass is filled with water or coke or something. He whips his head around, seeing if there was anyone behind him.

Mary clears her throat sharply.

Ed turns back around in fear, accidentally sending some of his food flying right at Mary.

(CHOICES) same as confront her

Confront Her.

Ed: What was that about?

Mary completely ignores him and checks the menu

Ed walks up and takes a seat

Ed: That hurt you really --

Mary sits down, not acknowledging what Ed's saying. she looks up straight at him

Mary (abrasively): Are you going to order?

Ed picks up the menu.

Ed: Uh, I haven't had a chance to look at the menu --

Mary sighs sharply, annoyed and impatient.

Ed exasperated slumps into his chair and puts the menu up in front of his face, blocking Mary out.

He then pulls the menu down and some weird food (gummy bears?) appears.

Ed: WHAT THE-!!!

Ed flings his food out in front of him, and a piece flies on to Mary.

Ed looks at Mary and Mary looks at Ed.`

(CHOICES)

Throw More Food

Ed looks at Mary slowly, then looks back down at his plate.

Mary stares blankly at him.

Mary looks at Ed, then her hand slowly reaches for her food on her plate.

A guitar string plays.

The waiter reappears with a pop gun.

Waiter: On 3. One...

Close up of Ed's eyes looking confused, darting back and forth. close up of intense Mary's eyes intense and focused on Ed

Waiter: Two....

Ed looks around increasingly more confused. He begins to panic.

Close up of waiter Gun

Close of food in Ed's hands

Close of food in Mary's hands

Waiter: Three!!!

Mary screams and throws her food. It hits Ed. He looks down at the food in his hand, then retaliates in kind.

Both are hit in the face with the food.
Both slump down onto the table.
Wide of the two 'dead' bodies
Waiter slides up with a bill.
Waiter: (Smugly) That'll be 35 dollars.
Silence from Mary and Ed
Waiter: (Whispery breathing) Plus tip.
END

Clean the Food off

Ed jumps back in surprise
Mary has a piece of food on her face
Ed: I'm so sorry, here use my napkin.
Mary doesn't move. Ed slides his napkin across the table. She watches him move.
Ed: It was an accident, I'm sorry, really.
Mary stares at the napkin in front of her before immediately grabbing it and begins violently eating it.
Ed stares in disbelief at Mary.
Mary looks at Ed (Close up of Mary's eyes)
Close up of Ed's eyes in fear
Mary then picks up the fork and starts eating it.
Ed is more terrified.
Zoom out of Ed to reveal a white plate.
It is revealed that Ed is on a huge dinner plate.
He looks around in fear, and looks up.
Mary is there with a giant fork, grinning.
Ed goes "nooooooooo" -very comically.
END

DRAMATIC PATH

[default beginning]
HUG

Ed and Mary hug each other. It's slightly awkward. The two sit down at the table that Ed was sitting at, facing one another. Ed then...

PARENT OPTIONS: ASK ABOUT JOB or REMINISCE ABOUT PAST

1: ASKS ABOUT JOB.

Ed: So, what do you do?

Mary: Sorry?

Ed: For work? What's your job?

Mary: Oh, I, uh, work in security.

Ed: That's cool.

Mary: Yeah. It's can be kind of dry, but it's always fun when you have a promising lead.

Ed: I knew a guy in high school who went on to be a county sheriff.

Mary: Uh huh.

An awkward pause, Ed drums his fingers on the table or scratches his neck nervously.

Mary: So what'd you do last night?

TALK ABOUT PARTY or CHANGE SUBJECT

1: TALK ABOUT PARTY

Ed: I went to a party at my friend's house. Real fun.

Mary: Oh really? What happened?

Ed, *humble bragging*: You know, party stuff. A bunch of people were there. It honestly got kind of crazy.

Mary: Really?

Ed, picking up steam: Yeah, my buddy Dylan brought in some stuff from out of town. I don't think I've ever had so much...

As Ed is talking, Mary leans forward and Ed notices a police badge half covered by her blazer. Ed stops his train of thought and looks around nervously.

Mary: So much what?

2. CHANGE SUBJECT

Ed: Eh, uh, nothing that exciting.

Mary: Really? Nothing?

Ed: I mean, I went to a friend's house. Small group of people. Pretty fun. You know how it is.

Mary: What do you mean?

Mary leans forward and her jacket shifts and Ed sees a police badge. He starts to fidget in his seat.

Ed: Nevermind, it was actually nothing.

Mary: From the way you're talking about it... seems like it was something.

Ed: Not really. (*awkward pause*) So, what did you do last night?

Mary: But you never finished tell --

Ed: Tell me about your weekend.

Mary: I really want to hear about where you were --

Ed: And I really want to hear about your weekend.

A stare-off. Ed starts to break. Mary continues to stare him down.

GO TO LEAVE or DEFEND SELF

GO TO LEAVE (end)

Ed shakes his head, trying to regroup himself.

Ed: Oh, I, uh. I'm sorry.

He takes his phone out of his pocket. It's obviously not ringing but he motions to it.

Ed: I think I gotta take this. I-I'm sorry.

Mary: But it's not --

Ed: I gotta go.

Mary stands up and holds out her police badge, now fully visible.

Mary: I don't think that's going to happen.

There's an awkward tension where Ed debates on running out of the room and Mary stares him down. After a fat moment of deliberation, Ed decides to make a break for it. He turns and runs away from her, and Mary is right on his heels. A chase scene ensues, with Ed jumping over tables and benches and Mary using her expert cop moves to weave deftly towards Ed. Ed sees a fork in the road and pauses for a minute before running to the left and hitting a fence. He's trapped! Oh no! The fence is too tall to climb and Mary is gaining on him. He's about to try and scale the fence before Mary's footsteps echo right behind him.

Mary: It's over.

Ed turns around and puts his hands up in surrender. He takes a deep breath.

Mary: Make better choices next time.

DEFEND SELF (end)

Ed clears his throat and looks around shiftily.

Ed: So you work in security, huh?

Mary: Yeah.

Ed: And that was, uh, where did you say you worked again?

Mary becomes increasingly suspicious of Ed's motives.

Mary: Why?

Ed: Huh?

Mary: Nevermind.

Awkward pause.

Ed: So where do you work?

Mary: Around.

Awkward pause.

Mary: What about you? What did you say you did last night?

Ed: Huh?

Mary: Where'd you go last night?

Ed: Around.

Mary leans forward, taking out her police badge.

Mary: I said, where did you go last night?

Ed stares stunned at the police badge. Mary also pulls out photos of Ed fleeing a party scene and lays them out on the table.

Mary: Look, I know you were at that party on 22nd and Birch last night. I also know that the party was broken up with many traces of illicit drugs found at the scene.

Ed continues to stare nervously.

Mary: But I'm willing to strike you... a deal of some sorts

Ed: W-what?

Mary: A deal. (beef) I know you weren't the one who supplied the drugs. But I think you know who did. Tell me their name, and you walk.

Ed looks intensely at the photo of himself at the party, then at the Mary's eyes. He finally nods.

Mary: Good choice.

2: REMINISCES ABOUT PAST

Ed: Wow, it's been a while, huh?

Mary stays silent.

Ed: You, uh, you look nice!

Mary: You said you'd call.

Ed: Excuse me?

Mary: That night. Twenty years ago. Don't you remember?

Ed stares blankly at Mary.

Mary: You told me to meet you on the hill at midnight. You said you had a car waiting. You said you'd call me when you were on your way. And you. Never. Called.

Recognition crosses Ed's face.

UH OH

Mary: I can't believe I was so stupid back then. I can't believe I ever trusted you. There I was on the hill, my bags packed. I was ready for us to start our lives together. You promised me you'd be there. What happened? Why did you never call?

I'M SORRY (end)

Ed: I... I was so stupid back then. I should have called. I'm really sorry.

Mary stays silent, avoiding eye contact.

Ed: I was dumb. I was 18 and I didn't know what I was saying. I didn't know what I was promising you before... it was too late.

Mary stares at him, contemplating Ed's words.

Ed: Please understand. I'm so sorry.

Beat. The two stare at each other intensely. Finally, Mary sighs.

Mary: I for--

Chad, a wildly strapping lad, enters, bringing up a chair and sitting next to Mary.

Chad: Hey babe, sorry I'm late. What's up, you must be Ed.

Ed (cautious): I... uh... do I know you?

Chad: Sorry, my bad. Mary over here's my girl. I had a skate meet right around the corner. Thought I'd stop by and see what's poppin.

Mary pulls Chad aside (they're still sitting down, just annoyed whispering to each other)

Mary (whispering to Chad): Babe, I thought we agreed that you wouldn't come to this.
Chad (whispering back): Sorry if I don't feel comfortable with my girl meeting up with one of her exes.
Mary: You need to trust me. I haven't seen Ed in years.
Chad: Babe I do trust you. I just don't trust him.
Mary: I can handle things on my own.
Chad: Well I'm here now, babe. What do you want me to do? I left the skate meet early for this.
Ed clears his throat. Mary and Chad look up at him.
Ed: It's okay I... I was just leaving anyways.
Mary: But we --
Chad: Ah, dude! We'll grind some rails sometime, aight? (sniff)
Ed: Yeah, yeah, sure. (beat) I'll see you around, Mary.
Beat. Mary and Ed look at each other.
Mary: Bye, Ed.
Ed walks away, emotional and frustrated. In the distance, Chad puts his arm around Mary, who shrugs his arm off and folds her arms in front of her. Ed continues walking.

BLAME HER (end)

Ed: Listen, sorry if I was nervous about running away with someone who was virtually a stranger at the time.
Mary: What?
Ed: All I'm saying is... you should've seen this coming. (*beef*) Are you serious? It's not like you would've actually run away with me if I had even shown up.
Mary: My bags were packed. I --
Ed: Yeah, sure. Did you even have feelings for me or did you just want an excuse for a little vacation?
beef.
Mary, *over dramatic and intense*: I loved you.
beef. Ed stares into Mary's eyes, taking in the gravity of her words.
Ed, on the verge of tears or a crisis: You loved me?
Mary nods. They stare at each other more intensely.
Ed, choking back tears: I still love you too. I... I never stopped loving you.
Mary: After all these years? All this time?
Ed: I could never get you off my mind. (*beef*) If I had known you felt the same way about me... I would've run away with you that night 20 years ago.
Mary pulls out a suitcase and puts a hat on, standing up.
Mary: How do you feel about a second chance?
Ed stands up and pulls out a suitcase too. He puts on his jacket. The two join hands and walk out of the restaurant.