

BETTERSNAATCH

DEFAULT BEGINNING

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

NORMAL PATH

Introduce Self:

Boy: (nervously) Hey, I'm (Boy)

Girl: Hi, I'm (girl) its good to meet you in person!

Boy: Yeah! (pulls out chair) Here, have a seat.

Ask About Day

Boy: So, how was your day? Do anything exciting?

Girl: Good, I was mostly getting ready for today to be honest

Boy: Yeah, me too (laughs nervously)

(Waiter walks up to table)

Waiter: Hi, my name is (blank), what will we be having today?

(Boy looks nervously to the menu, realizing he hasn't even looked at it)

Girl: Can I have the spaghetti?

Choice as the waiter approaches Boy

Order Spaghetti

Boy: Oh, I'll get the spaghetti too

(waiter nods and walks away)

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

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

(Both laugh)

(Both continue eating for a while until their plates are empty and the Boy gets a Call from MOM)

Ignore Call

(Boy looks down at phone and cancels call)

Boy: Sorry about that

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

Boy: What... no, it wasn't

Girl (laughing) Don't worry, I saw who it was, you're fine

Pick Up Call

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

Boy: Hey, mom, nows not a great time

Mom: (starts popping off about something gross like hemerroids)

Boy: Mom, please, I'm right in the middle of something

(Girls looks uncomfortable)

(Boy finally hangs up, and there is an awkward silence)

Talk About Your Day

Boy: Whew, you would not beleive the day I had.

Girl: Oh really, what hap...

Boy: (interrupting her) First I had to pick up my niece from her ballet class, but before I got there I (blah blah blah)

(Waiter walks up to table)

Waiter: Hi, my name is (blank), what will we be having today?

(Boy continues talking, not really noticing the waiter)

Girl: Can I have the spaghetti?

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

(Boy looks nervously to the menu, realizing he hasn't even looked at it)

Choice as the waiter approaches Boy

Liver Salad

Boy: Umm, can I have the...

(looks around at scenery)

Boy: (some name based on what's around him)

Waiter: (confused) I'm sorry, we don't...

Boy: I just need (blank). I have (looks awkwardly to girl) allergies.

(Girl looks exasperated and waiter slowly walks away. Time passes and then the food is brought.)

Eat the Food

(Waiter brings food)

Boy: Mmm, my favorite

(Boy nervously commits to eating gross food, eats the entire plate, girl watches disgusted)

Apologize

(Waiter brings food to table, both Boy and girl look awkward)

Boy: Look, I didn't actually want to get this, it was just the first thing that came to mind. I'm sorry, this just isn't something I do very often

Girl: (scoffs) (blank food) was the first thing you thought off?

(they both laugh)

Girl: Its alright, I was pretty nervous going into this too.

Good Ending

Girl : I had a good time tonight!

Boy : Thanks, so did I!

Girl: If you're free next week, I'd love to meet again.

Boy: Thursday?

Girl (mimics Boy): 7:30 again?

Boy: Works for me.

(Both get up)

Choice to hug to salute

Bad Ending

Girl: I'm sorry, I have to go

Boy: Wait just... I'm sorry I don't know what got into me.

Girl No, its not you, (choosing words carefully, awkwardly pausing between each word) my stepsister is giving birth.

Boy: Oh, ok, good luck?

Girl: (walking off, awkwardly) thanks

Boy: remains alone awkwardly at the table

ABSURD PATH

SHAKE HAND CHOSEN:

Boy smiles initially, shaking Girl's hand.

Girl is staring intently at Boy. The handshake slows down, and Girl looks grim.

Close up of her hand gripping his tightly.

Boy looks uncomfortable, and then looks up at Girl.

(Choices)

Squeeze Hand Back

Boy furrows his brow, his smile fading and he squeezes back

(Close up of hands tightening)

Girl raises her eyebrow a little, and squeezes further

Boy looks at girl and smirks a little.

Girl isn't looking at boy, instead staring at the hands

Close up of hands

(CHOICES)

Play it off

(CHECK OTHER BRANCH)

Boy will begin talking, girl will nonchalantly sit down at table and look at the menu.

Continue Squeezing

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

(Close up on Hands).

Girl, unflinching, stares at Boy, then back to the hands.

(Close up of hands)

Boy grunts at the pain, but doesn't relinquish yet.

(Close up of hands; sound of tightening)

Girl shows no discomfort.

Play it off

(CHECK OTHER BRANCH)

Continue Squeezing

Boy drops to one knee, beginning to make audible pain noises

(Close up of Hand)(Girl is clearly the dominant squeezer)

Girl is now towering over boy squeezing his hand.

Girl smirks, then pushes forward, Boy begins to scream

(Close up of Hands. They're shaking)

Girl stops smirking.

Snap Boy falls over, broken hand.

END

Comment on tight grip:

Boy: Man, that's quite the grip you got there!

Girl sighs and says nothing. They stop shaking hands.

Boy: "So uhm, Shall we take a ---"

Girl slugs her fist right into boys face.

Boy stumbles back clutching his face.

Boy: OWWWWWWW

Girl nonchalantly sits down at the table and picks up a menu.

Boy stands up, brushes himself off and stares directly at the girl.

(CHOICES)

Play it Off:

Boy either rubs his eye or hold his hand in pain

Girl sits nonchalantly in her chair reading a menu.

Boy: So--uhhh, do you do Karate or somethin

Girl: *RAWR*XD

Boy: AAAAAAH

Girl: *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.

Boy begins looking around

Girl: HEY

Boy whips around in fear, sending some of his food flying right at girl.

(CHOICES) same as confront her

Confront Her.

Boy: "Hey what was that for??!"

Girl completely ignores him and checks the menu

Boy walks up and takes a seat
Boy: Hey, uhm seriously what was--
Girl looks up straight at boy
Girl: What are you going to eat?
Boy exasperated slumps into his chair and looks at his menu.
He then pulls the menu down and some food appears
Boy: WHAT THE-!!!
Boy flings his food out in front of him, and a piece flies on to girl.
Boy looks at Girl and Girl looks at Boy.`
(CHOICES)

Throw More Food

Boy looks at Girl slowly, then looks back down at his plate.
Girl stares blankly at him.
Boy slowly raises his hand, it has more food in it.
Girl looks at Boy, 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 Boys eyes, then close up of intense Girl's eyes
Waiter: Two....
Close up of waiter Gun
Close of food in Boy's hands
Close of food in Girl's hands
Waiter: Three!!!
Boy screams and hurls his food
Girl replies 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 Girl and Boy
Waiter: (Whispery breathing) Plus tip.
END

Clean the Food off

Boy jumps back in surprise
Girl has a piece of food on her face
Boy: I'm so sorry, here use my napkin
Boy hands over his napkin, and Girl immediately grabs it and begins
violently eating it.
Boy stares in disbelief at Girl.

Girl looks at boy (Close up of Girls eyes)
Close up of boys eyes in fear
Zoom out of boys eye to reveal a white plane.
It is revealed that Boy is on a huge dinner plate.
He looks around in fear, and looks up.
Girl is there with a giant fork, grinning.
Boy goes “nooooooo” -very comically.
END

DRAMATIC PATH

[default beginning]

HUG

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

PARENT OPTIONS: ASK ABOUT JOB or REMINISCE ABOUT PAST

1: ASKS ABOUT JOB.

Boy: So, what do you do?

Girl: Pardon?

Boy: For work? What's your job?

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

Boy: That's cool.

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

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

Girl: Uh huh.

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

Girl: So what'd you do last night?

TALK ABOUT PARTY or CHANGE SUBJECT

1: TALK ABOUT PARTY

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

Girl: Oh really? What happened?

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

Girl: Really?

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

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

Girl: So much what?

2. CHANGE SUBJECT

Boy: Eh, uh, nothing that exciting.

Girl: Really? Nothing?

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

Girl: What do you mean?

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

Boy: Nevermind, it was actually nothing.

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

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

Girl: But you never finished tell --

Boy: Tell me about your weekend.

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

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

A stare-off. Boy starts to break. Girl continues to stare him down.

GO TO LEAVE or DEFEND SELF

GO TO LEAVE (end)

Boy shakes his head, trying to regroup himself.

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

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

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

Girl: But it's not --

Boy: I gotta go.

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

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

There's an awkward tension where Boy debates on running out of the room and Girl stares him down. After a fat moment of deliberation, Boy decides to make a break for it. He turns and runs away from her, and Girl is right on his heels. A chase scene ensues, with Boy jumping over tables and benches and Girl using her expert cop moves to weave deftly towards Boy. Boy 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 Girl is gaining on him. He's about to try and scale the fence before Girl's footsteps echo right behind him.

Girl: It's over.

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

Girl: Make better choices next time.

DEFEND SELF (end)

Boy clears his throat and looks around shiftily.

Boy: So you work in security, huh?

Girl: Yeah.

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

Girl becomes increasingly suspicious of Boy's motives.

Girl: Why?

Boy: Huh?

Girl: Nevermind.

Awkward pause.

Boy: So where do you work?

Girl: Around.

Awkward pause.

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

Boy: Huh?

Girl: Where'd you go last night?

Boy: Around.

Girl leans forward, taking out her police badge.

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

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

Girl: 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.

Boy continues to stare nervously.

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

Boy: W-what?

Girl: A deal. (beat) 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.

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

Girl: Good choice.

2: REMINISCES ABOUT PAST

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

Girl stays silent.

Boy: You, uh, you look nice!

Girl: You said you'd call.

Boy: Excuse me?

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

Boy stares blankly at Girl.

Girl: 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 Boy's face.

UH OH

Girl: 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)

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

Girl stays silent, avoiding eye contact.

Boy: 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.

Girl looks up at Boy. She's upset. They stare at each other before girl pops off.

Girl: Are you hearing yourself right now? You "didn't know what you were promising me"? Listen, I know running away together was a dumb idea, but you could have at least *called*. Maybe a "Hey, plan's off! I don't want to be with you!" or was that not worth your time?

Boy: I --

Girl: Save it. You had your choice. And you chose wrong.

Girl gets up from the table and walks away, leaving Boy dumbfounded.

BLAME HER (end)

Boy: Listen, sorry if I was nervous about running away with someone who was virtually a stranger at the time.

Girl: What?

Boy: All I'm saying is... you should've seen this coming. *(beat)* Are you serious? It's not like you would've actually run away with me if I had even shown up.

Girl: My bags were packed. I --

Boy: Yeah, sure. Did you even have feelings for me or did you just want an excuse for a little vacation?

Beat.

Girl, over dramatic and intense: I loved you.

Beat. Boy stares into Girl's eyes, taking in the gravity of her words.

Boy, on the verge of tears or a crisis: You loved me?

Girl nods. They stare at each other more intensely.

Boy, choking back tears: I still love you too. I... I never stopped loving you.

Girl: After all these years? All this time?

Boy: I could never get you off my mind. *(beat)* If I had known you felt the same way about me... I would've run away with you that night 20 years ago.

Girl pulls out a suitcase and puts a hat on, standing up.

Girl: How do you feel about a second chance?

Boy stands up and pulls out a suitcase too. He puts on his jacket. The two join hands and walk out of the restaurant.