

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

by
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CHARACTER NAME	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	AGE	GENDER
Lily Smith	Stylish dress	30	female
Daniel Jones	Navy suit/yellow tie	30	male
Cheryl Stevens	Stylish dress	30	female
Walter Stevens	Navy suit/red tie	30	male

"You Never Get A Second Chance to Make a First Impression."
Oscar Wilde

SCENE ONE

Three areas on stage. Front door to the left, living room in the center and kitchen on the right. Stage is dark.

Spot light on the front door. Daniel walks into the light. He pulls out his key from his pocket and unlocks the door. He pushes the door open. As the door swings open, the stage lights in the living room go on. Daniel enters the room. Takes off his shoes. Hangs up his coat and places his keys in the bowl by the door. Stage lights go on in the kitchen area.

LILY

Darling, they will be here any minute. Please set the table.

Lily places plates and wine glasses on the counter. Daniel walks over and takes the plates.

LILY

Did you ask your boss about being on the Porsche Project?

Daniel places the plates around the table.
Lily walks out of the kitchen with napkins and places them around the table.

DANIEL

No, I didn't see him today. He was busy in meetings all day.

LILY

With Walter?

DANIEL

Yes

LILY

You were the one who recommended Walter!

DANIEL

Yes

Lily goes and gets the cutlery from the kitchen. Daniel puts the wine glasses on the table.

LILY

Daniel, how are you ever going to get that next promotion without being on the top team accounts? You need to be more assertive.

DANIEL

I've told you, it doesn't always work that way. You have to be asked.

LILY

Well, let's figure out **how** to be asked.

DANIEL

Let's change the subject.

Lily firmly places the forks and knives on the table.

LILY

Let's change the subject, okay, you promised that we would be able to move out of my apartment into a bigger place right after we got married.

(pause)

We are getting married in two months, Daniel. I told my parents you were up for a promotion.

Daniel lets out a sigh.

DANIEL

I was, 5 months ago but you didn't want to move cities.

LILY

Not while I am planning a wedding and we will need my parent's help soon.

DANIEL

Your parent's help? Why?

LILY

Remember the plan, Daniel. My eggs aren't getting any younger.

DANIEL

You're only 30.

LILY

But at 35, my eggs are considered geriatric.

DANIEL

What?

(Daniel chuckles)

LILY

Don't laugh. You don't understand the pressure that Cheryl and I are under to be successful and have a family. It takes focus and planning.

Daniel places the wine glasses on the table.

DANIEL

Is that why you are setting up Walter and Cheryl tonight?

LILY

Yes, he is ambitious just like she is. They are perfect together.

DANIEL

Wow! Please, let's really change the subject.

Daniel puts the salt and pepper on the table.

DANIEL

Look, my Mom called and asked me if she can add two more friends to the guest list.

LILY

I don't know. My Mom has a very extensive guest list of people she has to invite. It is what I have been trying to teach you. Networking is so important.

DANIEL

Okay, I understand that. But since my Dad died, she has finally stepped out of her comfort zone and made some new friends at the senior center. It would mean a lot to her to have more than her two sisters and her cousin there.

LILY

Hmmmm, I'll ask my Mom.

Knock on the door. Lily walks to the door and opens it. Cheryl stands in the doorway carrying a big brown bag.

Cheryl steps through the doorway. Lily gives her two big air kisses one on each cheek.

LILY

Daniel, you remember Cheryl from last year's Christmas Party?

DANIEL

Yes, good to see you again.

Daniel shakes her hand.

LILY

Something smells delicious.

Cheryl holds up the bag slightly in front of her.

CHERYL

My grandmother's spicy potatoes to go with your 'Marry Me' chicken recipe.

The ladies walk into the kitchen. Spot light in the kitchen.

Cheryl puts her bag on the counter and pulls out the tupperware of potatoes.

CHERYL

Thank you for arranging this opportunity to get to know Walter. From what you told me, we should be a perfect match.

Lily opens the oven door, looks inside and closes the oven door.

LILY

Don't worry Cheryl, you will make a great first impression. You always do!

CHERYL

But if I don't, you promise to re-set?

LILY

I promise. But I don't think you will need it.

Lily puts the cake stand on the counter.

She stands next to Cheryl.

CHERYL

Does it taste bad? What if I can't swallow it? Do I have to swallow it to make it work?

LILY

Shhh, not so loud. It's for female ears only.

CHERYL

How do I remember after the re-set?

Lily turns Cheryl to face her. She holds her by the shoulders and looks her in the eye.

LILY

Cheryl, if you need to re-set, I will pass you the bottle and don't you worry your pretty little head, I will mist you myself to help you retain your memories.

Door bell rings.

Daniel opens the door and Walter, a bit disheveled rushes in and talks rapidly and passionately.

WALTER

Daniel, today was great! Mr. Phillips came to talk to me and my team to brainstorm about ideas for several different campaigns. He put us on the spot but we kept up the energy and the ideas kept flowing. I was on fire today.

Walter claps Daniel on the back. The ladies walk in. Walter nods and keeps talking to Daniel while pouring a drink. He turns his back to the ladies as he pours the drink.

WALTER

In fact, he put me in charge of the Porsche Project! Me, my team!

DANIEL

Well, Congratulations Walter.

Daniel picks up his drink and holds it up in the air.

DANIEL

This deserves a toast. Ladies?

Lily and Cheryl don't have drinks.

LILY

Congratulations Walter.

Cheryl takes a step forward.

CHERYL

(blurts out a bit too loud)

Yes! Congratulations.

Walter takes a step back.

WALTER

You work with Lily right?

CHERYL

Yes, we are in the same accounting division.

WALTER

That's nice.

Silence for a moment from everyone.

Walter looks at his drink. Daniels smiles
and nods to Cheryl. Lily pats Cheryl's arm.

Walter rushes his next thought.

WALTER

Sorry, will you two give me a moment to talk about some ideas with Daniel, I am so
hyped up about a new account that I have been assigned.

Cheryl is annoyed.

LILY

(whispers)

You check the chicken and I will take care of this.

LILY

Daniel darling, will you go into the kitchen and put the cake on the cake stand for me
while Cheryl checks the chicken.

Daniel cocks his head and gives her a puzzled look.

LILY

Give me a moment with Walter, please.

Daniel and Cheryl walk into the kitchen.
The kitchen lights dim.

Lily walks closer to Walter. She stands next to him and speaks in a softer but firm voice.

LILY

Walter, you are a smart passionate guy and I bet one day you will want to share that passion with an equally smart partner.

WALTER

Yes, someday.

LILY

A partner who is lovely and comes from a very prominent family.

Walter runs his hand through his hair.

LILY

Well, you don't get a second chance to make a first impression.

Walter looks down at himself. Lily straightens his tie for him. She brushes off the shoulder of his coat and pats his front pocket. Lily walks to the cabinet and opens it.

LILY

Walter, I am sharing with you something very special. It has been passed down by my grandmother's family for decades and typically only something only women share with other women.

Lily pulls out 2 bottles. An exotic bottle with a cap and a perfume spray bottle. Daniel walks out of the kitchen and stands in the doorway.

LILY

I have only used it once.

She places the perfume bottle on the cabinet counter. She admires the pattern on the other bottle.

LILY

This is a special elixir. When you drink it, it will reset time to the first few minutes before you meet her so that you can make a better impression and re-set your future path.

WALTER

Seriously?

LILY

I used it after my first date with Daniel. I wasn't as understanding as I could have been and I got a chance to make a better first impression. And here we are!

Lily holds up her hand and admires her engagement ring. Daniel looks surprised.

WALTER

It will reverse time? Just a few minutes?

LILY

Yes, to the moment before you two meet.

Walter puts down his drink and Lily passes him the bottle. She picks up the spray perfume bottle. Daniel slowly walks closer to them.

WALTER

Will I remember so that I don't make the same mistake?

LILY

Yes, and so will I by inhaling the elixir mist.

Walter takes off the top. Lily puts her hand on his arm to keep him from drinking.

LILY

Walter, this gift comes at a price.

Walter tilts his head.

LILY

I expect you to put Daniel on your team.

Walter nods . As he takes a big swig, Lily sprays herself and Daniel ends up getting sprayed in the face.

STAGE GOES DARK, all actors re-set to their positions before Walter arrives.

Spot light on the front door. Walter straightens his tie, smooths his hair, takes a deep breath and knocks on the door.

Lights go on in the living room. Daniel shakes himself and answers the door. Walter walks in and shakes Daniel's hand.

WALTER

Daniel, I have great news for you. But let's talk about that over dessert. Right now, I would like to meet Lily's lovely friend.

Walter walks over, makes eye contact and shakes her hand.

WALTER

Walter Stevens

CHERYL

Cheryl Stevens.

WALTER

With a ph or a v?

CHERYL

A v

WALTER

Interesting, me too.

CHERYL

Lily, you didn't mention that we have the same last name.

LILY

Didn't I? Hmmm. You two get acquainted while Daniel and I pour more drinks.

Walter and Cheryl walk into the kitchen.
The kitchen lights dim.

Lily pulls Daniel into the drink area.

LILY

Daniel, I think Walter is going to ask you to be on his team. That will mean he will become your boss but this is your chance to get noticed.

DANIEL

How many times did you use the elixer?

LILY

What are you talking about?

DANIEL

How many times?

LILY

Oh you heard?

Daniel nods.

LILY

Well, just the once.

DANIEL

Lily.

LILY

Okay, maybe a few times but I needed to get it right. You were such a cute boy and now we are on the way to making you a successful man.

Lily gives him a peck on the check and walks toward Walter and Cheryl in the kitchen.

Daniel looks at the bottle in the cabinet. He opens the cabinet and holds the bottle in his hand. He looks toward the kitchen and back to the bottle. He quickly takes off the top and takes a big swig..

STAGE GOES BLACK

Spot light at the front door.

Daniel is standing there with flowers in his left hand and his right hand is poised to knock. He lowers his right hand. He looks at the flowers. He drops them at the foot of the doorway and runs.